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Security grills long-absent Kuwaitis on return

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: The Ministry of the Interior is currently interrogating all Kuwaitis who return to Kuwait after long stay overseas, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting knowledgeable sources.

The sources pointed out the security authorities at border crossing points have been instructed to apply the procedure on Kuwaitis and bedoun to identify reasons for their long absence and to ensure they were not involved in terrorist activities, particularly since it is a well-known fact some of them have spent time behind bars in the countries of their residence for various reasons.

One of the Kuwaitis who returned to the country after a 20-year absence said he holds the citizenship of a European country and was subsequently referred to the concerned authority.

The sources added, the security authorities after interrogating the 'absentees', get in touch with the countries they return from to double check on the information provided by them.

The daily added, according to the security sources there are scores of Kuwaitis and bedoun who have not yet returned.

MP 'calls' for more environment police

Panel discusses fish kill, oil spill

By Abubakar A. Ibrahim
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei has forwarded questions to Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the Military Health Office in London.

He requested for details such as the budget of the office from 2015 until the end of August 2017, overseas treatment beneficiaries under the office, amount spent on each of these beneficiaries, committees dealing with files of these beneficiaries if any, and members of these committees.

He said there have been social media reports on referral of some Army officials to the Public Prosecution for misappropriation of public funds, while some of them were suspended from work and others were referred for retirement. If these reports are true, he asked the minister to provide details such as results of investigations and charges filed against the concerned officials. In case the reports are false, he wants to know the measures taken to prevent the spread of baseless rumors.

He went on to disclose that he obtained information on the delayed payment of some contracts without justification in an alleged bid to put pressure on signatory companies to pay commission to certain traders. He urged the minister to clarify the issue; and if this information is false, he wants to know the reason for delaying the payment.

Meanwhile, parliamentary Environment Committee Chairman MP Adel Al-Damkhi said the panel discussed a number of issues on Wednesday including the oil spill, fish kill and hunting ground regulations

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Opinion

Close the Brotherhood kiosks and chop off the snakes' head

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

IRRESPECTIVE of the excuses and considerations, it is no longer acceptable for Gulf states to remain silent over the 'Muslim Brotherhood Group' and the factions and movements which emerged from it; considering the high price that Arabian Gulf countries have been paying for almost four decades at different levels due to the infiltration of this group in these countries' establishments.

These countries will continue paying a high price. In fact, the cost will increase further if their governments do not start uprooting terrorists, sideline them from establishments and declare them as a terrorist organization. Actually, they need to shut down all 'Brotherhood' kiosks which have been spreading corruption in Gulf communities.

Since the mid-1970s, the 'Brotherhood' has been waging war under various masks against the Gulf's ruling regimes; starting with subjugation of education to serve their interests, and then subduing economic and financial establishments.

The group infiltrated cabinets and parliaments, and went on to coil themselves around some leaders by portraying the group as the latter's guarantor to enter paradise. They bless every action taken by such leaders by telling them that it is inspiration from Almighty Allah, and they do so even when the action is disastrous.

As they solidify their position, they increase the number of their members in centers of power where they wreak havoc by putting unsuitable person in unsuitable position. Their weapons include long beards and prayer beads that make them appear pure and pious, but in reality; they have mastered banditry in the hands of their professional leaders.

We saw how they quickly dropped the masks from their pale faces after the Egyptian office of insolents hijacked the republic's presidential seat and installed the doll, Muhammad Morsi, as president.

During that time, they hanged his pictures in the place of their leaders' pictures. They started propagating their march towards

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Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com
Follow me on:
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ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com


A Russian military police officer stands guard in the yard of Aleppo's oldest Umayyad mosque, Syria on Sept 12. The recapture of eastern Aleppo in December 2016, one of the deadliest episodes of the Syrian civil war, was a landmark victory for Assad's forces in the conflict, now in its seventh year, but it left the area in ruins. (AP)

Syria in bid to encircle DAESH

DEIR EZZOR, Syria, Sept 13, (AFP): After breaking an Islamic State group blockade, Syria's army is seeking to encircle the remaining jihadist-held parts of Deir Ezzor city, a military source said Wednesday.

The city is the capital of oil-rich eastern Deir Ezzor province, regarded as a strategic prize by both Russian-backed Syrian troops and US-backed fighters.

In Damascus Wednesday, President Bashar al-Assad said the country was "advancing steadily towards victory thanks to the sacrifices of its army, the determination of its people and the support of its allies," state news agency SANA said.

Last week, Syria's army and allied fighters broke a years-long IS siege of Deir Ezzor, entering two regime-held sections of the city that had been cut off from each other.

Since then, the army has brought reinforcements to the city and is seeking to oust IS from eastern neighbourhoods that run along the Euphrates river, which slices diagonally through the province.

"The army is seeking to encircle DAESH from three sides by controlling the parts of the western bank of the Euphrates river," the source told AFP, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

Troops would target riverside territory on the city's northwestern edges as well as strategic areas on its southern outskirts, including the key military airport and the village of Al-Jafra, on the banks of the Euphrates.

The operation seeks to "oust DAESH from the city and the province completely," the military source said.

Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor, also reported that "fierce fighting

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Other Voices

The infinite failure of traffic!!

By Ali Ahmed Al-Baghli
Former Minister of Oil

SINCE we opened our eyes to this world, a particular aspect of traffic law has not changed for decades. What I mean here is that in case of a traffic accident involving two or more vehicles, we usually find the drivers of vehicles involved in the accident waiting for a traffic expert in the middle of the street.


Al Baghli

The traffic expert, who is expected to appear after a few minutes or even hours, analyzes the situation and drafts the accident report for those involved in the accident to sign before his eyes in fear of being defrauded by insurance companies which have never experienced losses in their annual budget.

The entire process causes massive traffic congestion, especially on vital roads where hundreds of people end up arriving late to their destinations such as their workplaces, homes,

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Email: ali-albaghli@hotmail.com

Jail call on Equifax hack

WASHINGTON, Sept 13, (Agencies): Thirty-six US senators on Tuesday called on federal authorities to investigate the sale of nearly $2 million in shares of credit bureau Equifax Inc by company executives after a massive data breach, and one compared their actions to insider trading.

The lawmakers signed a letter asking the US Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Trade Commission to look into about $1.8 million in stock sales by three executives between July 29 — the day Equifax said it learned that its systems were hacked in mid-May — and when they made it public last week.

"If that happened, somebody needs to go to jail," Senator Heidi Heitkamp, a Democrat on the Senate Banking Committee, said at a credit union industry conference in Washington. "It's a problem when people can act with impunity with no consequences. How is that not insider trading?"

Cyber security experts believe the breach is one of the largest data hacks ever disclosed.

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KUNA photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah hands over a written message from HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. — See Page 5

Gulf row hurts all: Rater

DUBAI, Sept 13, (AFP): A boycott of Qatar by a Saudi-led bloc of Arab states is hurting the economies of all the countries involved, with Bahrain and Qatar the most affected, Moody's Investor Service said Wednesday.

The row has translated into a credit negative for the entire six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, Moody's said in a report.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt on June 5 severed diplomatic ties and imposed economic sanctions on Qatar, accusing it of backing

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US$/KD	0.30125/35
Euro/KD	0.3588
Yen/KD	0.0027
British £/KD	0.3985
KSE	+18.94 pts at closing Sept 13 (See Page 29)
Dow	+21.92 pts at 21:00 Sept 13 (See Page 30)
Nasdaq	-2.59 pts at 21:00 Sept 13
FTSE	-20.99 pts at closing Sept 13
Nikkei	+89.20 pts at closing Sept 13
Gold	$1,327.55 per oz (London)
NYMEX crude	$49.28 per barrel
Brent crude	$55.16 per barrel
3-month $ LIBOR rate	1.31917%

Newswatch

TEHRAN: The Iranian Revolutionary Guards arrested a member of Islamic State and foiled a plan for suicide attacks, a Guards commander said on Wednesday.

Col **Amin Yamini**, the Guards commander for the western **Tehran** suburb of **Shahriar**, did not say when the arrest was made but said the attacks were being planned for a 10-day Shi'ite religious holiday that begins next week.

The Islamic State member arrested was from the Syrian branch of the militant Sunni organization and had planned to organize about 300 people to carry out suicide attacks, Yamini said, according to Basij Press, the news site for the Tehran branch of the Guards. (RTRS)

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WASHINGTON: The Trump administration has adequate legal authority to combat terrorist groups and doesn't support a push in Congress for a new law permitting military action against the Islamic State and other militants, a senior White House official said Tuesday.

The comments by White House legislative director **Marc Short** came as Republican Sen. **Rand Paul** of **Kentucky** ramped up pressure on his colleagues to reassert their power to decide whether to send American troops into harm's way. Paul, a leader of the GOP's non-interventionist wing, wants a vote on his amendment to the annual defense policy bill that would let the authorizations after the Sept 11 attacks lapse after six months. He says Congress would use the time to pass a new war authority.

Many congressional Republicans and Democrats have been clamoring for Congress to approve a new authorization for the use of military force. But they're moving too slowly for Paul, who's demanding the deadline to ensure faster action.

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TOSHIBA LAUNCHES THE NEW X SERIES RANGE OF LAPTOPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Toshiba today announced the launch of the all new and exciting Portégé X20W, Portégé X30 and Tecra X40 range of laptops in the Middle East. These additions to Toshiba's laptop range mark its unswerving dedication to innovating for its business customers, and creating products that don't compromise on performance, connectivity, features, battery life or durability. Complete with ultra-sleek, flexible, light- weight designs, the laptops have been designed, produced and rigorously tested entirely by Toshiba. They are elegantly engineered which provide premium, powerful and secure experiences for professionals.

"We developed the Portégé X20W as part of our drive to create the best hybrid 2-in-1 laptop experience for professionals, from employees in small to mid-size organisations, to large corporate environments - regardless of their location," said Maki Yamashita, Senior Vice President, PC & Solutions EMEA, Toshiba Europe GmbH. "The Portégé X30 and Tecra X40 are the result of us channeling our heritage and expertise in mobile devices into every step of the development process, from design and manufacturing, to durability testing, and we're confident this will shine through in the premium, professional experience they provide."

According to IDC research, this year is set to be the year that businesses in the Middle East will increase their adoption of transformational IT. Countries such in the Middle East will lead the way with an increase in IT spend, predicted to grow to $6.2bn in 2017 as technologies such as cloud, big data, social and mobility become investment priorities.

"One area Toshiba truly dedicates its time on is R&D for innovative technology solutions. With a team of highly skilled engineers and designers devoted to developing cutting edge technology, we are able to develop systems that are all about revolutionising and enriching all our business user's needs. We are committed to going beyond the limitations and constraints of today's PC and redefine how you control your systems," concludes Yamashita.

Below is a brief description of the X Series range:

The Portégé X20W, measuring in at 15.4mm thin and 1.1 kg, the laptop offers professionals flexibility of a tablet and notepad in one sleek device with a beautiful Onyx Blue cover and Light Gold hinges. Toshiba's Portégé X20W is elegantly engineered, offering style and substance: with an astonishing 16 hour battery life. It has comprehensive security features, including two-factor authentication with fingerprint reader and IR camera for face recognition.

The Portégé X30 is 15.9mm thick and weighs in at just over one kilogram, making the machine 11-percent thinner and 13-percent lighter than the award winning Z30. The Tecra X40 is measures in at 16.9mm and weighs just over one kilogram. Both the Portégé X30 and Tecra X40 are the latest examples of Toshiba's ability to innovate the thin and light laptop form factor without sacrificing performance, features, battery life or durability. Not only are the machines similar in overall dimensions, they share many of the same components and features.

Availability

The Portégé X20W and the Portégé X30 are already available throughout the Middle East. The Tecra X40 will follow shortly in the region.

TOSHIBA

Leading Innovation

Toshiba recommends Windows 10 Pro.



Functional, **effective**

Portégé X20W: Every device you could possibly need

It's productive in any position. Dual-action 360º hinges take you from laptop to tablet in an instant – while supporting all your accessories with USB-C connectivity.
It's powered by a 7th generation Intel® Core™ processor. Plugging in for half an hour gives you four hours of battery life – or 16 hours on a full charge*. And the AES stylus uses 2,048 pressure points to capture notes with absolute precision.

Toshiba's Portégé X20W. Elegant engineering.

Find out more at **www.toshiba.eu/X20W**



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Salhiya St. behind Kuwait Munucipality - Al-Laheeb Bldg. No. 3
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From left: HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf with HH the Premier, FM Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled.

Audience of His Highness the Deputy Amir

His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received early Wednesday at Bayan Palace His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness Sheikh Nawaf also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Deputy Amir also received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Khaled Al-Saleh. (KUNA)



KUNA photos

HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince with Minister of Finance Al-Saleh.

Minister of State for External Affairs due

Third India-Kuwait Joint Ministerial Commission Meeting set for Sept 20

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs is leading an Indian delegation to Kuwait for the 3rd India–Kuwait Joint Ministerial Commission Meeting on Wednesday, Sept 20, 2017. This meeting on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between India and Kuwait is taking place after a gap of 9 years. H.E. Anas Khaled Al-Saleh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Kuwait will lead the Kuwaiti delegation for the meeting.

There will be wide ranging discussions on various issues of common interest between the two sides, says a press release issued by the Embassy of India.

Despite his busy schedule, M.J. Akbar will interact with members of the Indian community in Kuwait at Embassy's Auditorium on Tuesday, Sept 19, 2017 from 6 to 7 pm.

All members of the Indian community in Kuwait are cordially invited to attend.

Kuwait Today

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:12
Sunrise	05:32
Zohr	11:44
Asr	15:14
Maghrib	17:55
Isha	19:13

Weather

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Night: Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12-35 km/h.

By Day: Very hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 20-45 km/h with a chance for blowing dust over open areas.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	44	35
Kuwait Airport	47	27
Abdaly	48	29
Bubyan	35	26
Jahra	47	32
Failaka Island	39	29
Salmiyah	38	32
Ahmadi	36	34
Nuwaisib	42	27
Wafra	47	28
Salmy	48	28

4 days forecast - Weather

Thursday, Sept 14
Expected weather.....Very hot causing rising dust over open areas
Max Temp.....47C
Min Temp.....28C
Wind Direction.....NW
Wind Speed.....15-45 km/h

Friday, Sept 15
Expected weather.....Hot and relatively humid specially over coastal areas
Max Temp.....45C
Min Temp.....26C
Wind Direction.....NW-VRB
Wind Speed.....08-28 km/h

Saturday, Sept 16
Expected weather.....Hot and relatively humid over coastal area
Max Temp.....44C
Min Temp.....26C
Wind Direction.....VRB-SE
Wind Speed.....08-28 km/h

Sunday, Sept 17
Expected weather.....Hot relatively humid over specially over coastal areas
Max Temp.....43C
Min Temp.....25C
Wind Direction.....VRB-SE
Wind Speed.....08-28 km/h

Marine Forecast

Station	Max Rec	Min Exp	Sea Surf	Today's Waves Ht	Dirn
South Dolphin	43	31	-	5ft	SE
Umm Mudayrah	39	33	-	5ft	SE
Beacon M28	-	-	-	5ft	SE
Beacon N6	44	29	-	5ft	SE
Qaruh Island	38	32	-	5ft	SE
Umm Al-Maradem	41	32	-	5ft	SE
Sea Island Buoy	-	-	-	-	-
Salmiyah	42	32	-	5ft	SE

4 days forecast - Marine

Thursday, Sept 14
Expected weather.....Very hot causing rising dust over open areas
Sea state.....Slight to moderate
Wave height.....2-6 ft
Max Temp.....46C
Min Temp.....27C
Wind Direction.....NW
Wind Speed.....15-45 km/h

Friday, Sept 15
Expected weather.....Hot and relatively humid specially over coastal areas
Sea state.....Slight to moderate
Wave height.....1-4 ft
Max Temp.....45C
Min Temp.....25C
Wind Direction.....NW-VRB
Wind Speed.....06-28 km/h

Saturday, Sept 16
Expected weather.....Hot and relatively humid specially over costal areas
Sea state.....Slight to moderate
Wave height.....1-3 ft
Max Temp.....44C
Min Temp.....25C
Wind Direction.....VRB-SE
Wind Speed.....06-28 km/h

Sunday, Sept 17
Expected weather.....Hot and humid specially over coastal areas
Sea state.....Slight to moderate
Wave height.....1-4 ft
Max Temp.....43C
Min Temp.....24C
Wind Direction.....VRB-SE
Wind Speed.....08-30 km/h

Tide times at Shuwaikh Port

1st high tide:.....04:23
2nd high tide:.....19:10
1st low tide:.....22:59
2nd low tide:.....11:58
Sunrise:.....05:32
Sunset:.....17:55

Recorded yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max temp.....46C
Min temp.....25C
Max Rh.....38%
Min Rh.....07%
Max Wind.....SE 21 km/h
Total Rainfall in 24 hrs.....0 mm

Recorded yesterday at South Dolphin

Min/Max/ Air Temp.....31/38C
Min/Max Rel Hum.....20/90%
Wind Direction/Wind Speed.....SE/28 km/h
Prev Wave Dir/Max Wave Ht.....N/- ft
Min/Max Sea Surface Temp.....-/- C
Sea Current.....Downdraft

— Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Meteorological Dept.

deaths

Mohammad Ali Taleb Hasan Abbas, 78 years old , buried on Wednesday. Condolences: (Men) Bneid Al Gar, Huseiniyat Ashour, Tel: 66688181 (Women) Bayan, Block 5, Street 2, House 18, Tel: 97322525; **Faleh Fehaid Faleh Al Azemi,** 76 years old, buried on Wednesday. Condolences: Fahaheel Block 3, Street 3 House 161, Tel: 99800860; **Saleh Muslim Abdullah Saleh Al Qedaihi,** 66 years old, buried on Wednesday. Condolences: (Men) Mansouriya, Huseiniya Abbasiya, Block 2, Street 28, House 8, Tel: 97116604 – 99644327 (Women) Bayan, Block 5, Street 2, House 28, (Morning) Huseiniyat Umm Talal, Block 12, Street 5, House 36, at Asr time, Tel: 99656643-66247447; **Habiba Khethair Kathem,** 59 years old, buried on Wednesday. Condolences: (Men) Jleeb Shuyoukh, Block 4, Street 322, House 23, Tel: 90999753 (Women) Jaber Al Ahmad, Block 2, Street 245, House 194, Tel: 99895523; **Abdullah Abdul Salam Abdullah Al Enzi,** 4 years old, buried on Wednesday. Condolences: (Men) Qasser, Block 1, Street 3, Avenue 2, House 5, Tel: 99828431 (Women) Oyoun, Block 1, Street 2, House 41; **Saif Mohammad Abdullah Al Shehab,** 90 years old, buried on Wednesday. Condolences: (Men) Nuzha, Block 1, Street Al Thaalbi, House 7, Tel: 99797957, (Women) Mansouriya, Block 2, Street 21, House 8, Tel: 22528051; **Jasem Mohammad Ali Al Khabaz,** 70 years old, to be buried on Thursday after Asr prayers. Condolences: (Men) Shaab, Diwan Al Kanadra Tel: 62220021 (Women) Sabah Al Salem, Block 9, Street 4, Avenue 3, House 60, Tel: 97655422, starts from Friday. **Ibrahim Khazal Ibrahim Al Failakawi,** 83 years old, to be buried on Thursday at 9:00 am. Condolences: (Men) Mubarak Al Kabeer, Block 6, Street 2, House 7, Tel: 99064595 (Women) Hadiya, Block 5, Street 8, House 5, Tel: 99017119; **Naseema Ibrahim Ghloom,** 94 years old, buried on Wednesday. Condolences: (Men) Rumaithiya, Maqamis Mosque, Tel: 99069316 (Women) Rumaithiya, Huseiniyat Umm Sadiq Block 4, Tel: 99780115.

Sept 13, 2017

Renewable energy … moves from oil competitor to economic project

Bid to materialize vision of leadership

Following is a report by the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) issued within the economic file of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA)

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KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13, (KUNA): Thanks to collective inter-agency effort to materialize the vision of Kuwait's political leadership, solar, and wind energies have become a tangible reality after Al-Shaqaya Renewable Energy Complex went operational.

The complex has been hooked to the national power grid recently, thus adding nearly 23 million kilowatts/hour in the first six months to the country's generating capacity.

Kuwait's attempts to tap into renewable energy sources date back to the 1980s; projects in this sector came to the fore in the national economic development plan in 2010 under the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for covering 15 percent of the demand for electricity from renewables through 2030.

Based on an oil price of $45 per barrel, the vision aims to save up to $2.5 billion a year that would be spent on electricity generated from fossil fuel.

The Ministry of Electricity and Water, Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) worked together to turn renewable energy from competitors to oil — the main source of national income, into an investment project with high economic and environment returns.

Located in the western area of Kuwait, Al-Shaqaya Renewable Energy Complex opens new horizons for private investors in the coming stages, thus promoting innovation in this field, Chairman of the Complex Dr Salem Al-Hajraf said.

Output

"The Complex consists of two power-generating plants — one solar and the other wind," he said in statements to KUNA. "The total output of clean energy from the Complex amounts to 23 million kw/h in the first six months equivalent to the power produced from 40,000 barrels of oil worth KD 600,000 (some $1.9 million)," he revealed.

"The unconventional energy is highly cost-effective. The energy production of the Complex costs in the first six months only KD 400,000 (nearly $1.3 million), so the difference between the cost of conventional and unconventional energy prices is KD 160,000 or $500.000," Dr Al-Hajraf stated.

Tapping into clean energy saved environment from 15,000 tons of carbon dioxide that could be emitted from fossil fuel in this period, he noted.

"The three-phase Complex is a pioneering project, jointly developed by KISR and KNPC in collaboration with the Ministry. Its construction works started in 2013. When its final phase is complete in 2030, the Complex will spare up to 12.5 million barrels of oil a year or 3-4 percent of the total oil consumption," he added. With a total population of 4.4 million people, Kuwait consumes 350,000 barrels of oil per day, valued at $15.7 million, to generate electricity and desalinate seawater.

The power generated from the Complex will grow from 20 megawatts in the current first phase to 50 megawatts in 2018, 1,000 megawatts in 2020 and 2,000 megawatts in the third phase in 2025.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Water Eng Mohammad Bushehri projected the domestic demand for oil to expand to one million bpd by 2035 when the country's population will grew to 5.5 million.

He said the total power generating capacity of the country amounts to 16,700 megawatts, noting that the electrical load this summer has hit 13,800 megawatts, which forced tapping into the potentials of alternative energy.



Al-Shaqaya Renewable Energy Complex.



Director of EPA Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah during his tour at Al-Shaqaya Renewable Energy Complex.



KUNA photos

The Complex will spare up to 12.5 million barrels of oil a year or 3-4 percent of the total oil consumption.

'13 obstacles hinder execution of development projects'

Cultural office provides varied services to Kuwaiti students in France, Malta: Mane'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: Head of Kuwaiti Cultural Office in France and Malta Adel Al-Mane' affirmed that the office provides varied services to the Kuwaiti students studying in France and Malta, reports Al-Shahed daily.

He said the office follows up the academic progress of the students and participates in solving the problems they face, indicating that the office covers all European Union countries and France.

Elaborating on the problems that the students face, Al-Mane' said it is related to the equalization of certificates.

He explained that the French marking system is distinctive. Successful students' marks range from 10 to 12 out of 20 marks. They do not have an excellent level. The students' performance levels are categorized as pass, fair, good and very good. In most cases, Kuwaiti students get evaluation of "very good".

However, when they return to Kuwait, they discover that their evaluation is less than what they expected.

Al-Mane' indicated that Ministry of Education responded well to this problem by promising to study the issue, revealing that there are 300 scholarship students and others who are studying on their own expense. He advised the students to read the scholarship regulations of the educational institute where they enroll.



Al-Mane'

Al-Mane' affirmed the keenness of the office to increase the number of scholarship students who enroll for engineering and medicine courses, indicating that it is not easy to join these specializations as the student has to pass an exam "Concord" which determines the level of the students and their ability to compete with French students.

He revealed that about 1,200 students apply for the "Concord" exam but only 100 are accepted, adding that the exam measures the level of French language of the students as well as their scientific abilities.

❑ ❑ ❑

Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr. Khalid Al-Mahdi disclosed about 13 obstacles that hinder the execution of development projects, reports Annahar daily.

He stressed the need for the Municipal Council and Kuwait Municipality to deal with these obstacles, indicating that a meeting will be held with the Development Committee in order to remove these obstacles.

Dr Al-Mahdi revealed that the annual plan of 2018/2019 has finished and will soon be referred to the Supreme Council for Planning and Development along with a number of issues with economic and social dimensions.

He said the report of the first quarter of 2017/2018 fiscal year revealed that some projects have been launched while others are under construction. Some projects are progressing well while others are being executed very slowly.

Dr Al-Mahdi stressed that some projects had faced problems due to which they were suspended, stressing the need for more efforts to remove all obstacles that hinder the execution of these projects.

Coordination between ACK, KAC in creating job opportunities lauded

Al-Sabeeh visits Aviation Dept of College

By Fares Al-Abdan
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh praised the strong coordination between the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) and Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) in creating job opportunities for Kuwaiti youths.

She indicated that cooperation between the private and public sectors in generating job opportunities in accordance with the actual needs of the labor market is the essence of the development plan.

The minister made the statement during her inspection tour of the Aviation Department at ACK, with KAC Board Chairperson Sami Al-Rashid and several officials of the two institutions in attendance.

She affirmed that she familiarized herself with KAC's coordination efforts and its ability to accommodate graduates from ACK, in addition to the requirements of KAC; especially since such cooperation is considered an integral part of social development and efforts to create new opportunities for the national manpower.

She also unveiled plans to establish an airport management company run by national labor force, in addition to visions on generating job opportunities in order to increase the number of national workers.

She also emphasized the importance of academic outputs which match the actual manpower needs. She said the cooperation between ACK and KAC is regarded as one of the major projects in the development plan.

Meanwhile, Engineering Director at KAC Faisal Al-Karibani affirmed that the corporation's relations with ACK started since its inception in 2003. He added ACK produces high-caliber graduates as the specialization is in aviation engineering, with six to seven exams given by KAC and the distinction level is determined after the exams.

Meanwhile, General Secretary of Labor Union of Ministry of Electricity and Water Nawaf Bouyabis described the decision issued recently by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to implement the fingerprint attendance system as not well-studied and not serving the work requirements in Ministry of Electricity and Water, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press statement, he stressed the importance of reviewing and reconsidering the decision of CSC and Civil Service Council, taking into the account the conditions and nature of ministry's work which can never be the same in all its sectors and departments.

Bouyabis said, "The decision ignores the reality of different nature of work and circumstances".

He affirmed that the labor union board is still discussing with the leadership of Ministry of Electricity and Water, represented by Minister Eng Essam Al-Marzouq and Undersecretary Eng Mohammad Boushahri, for amending the status of employees who received degrees from universities, which are recognized by Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Bouyabis insisted on the importance of dealing with this file and removing any restricting conditions that were set in this regard.





Top: Al-Sabeeh during an inspection tour of Aviation Department at ACK. (Above): Some of the attendees.







Photos by Iehab Qurtal

Photos from the event titled 'Amazing Journey'

Ikhlas private school holds educational program

Ikhlas Private School received its first grade students and held an educational program for children titled "Amazing Journey" with the participation of KSHMSH Creative Productions with the aim of spreading awareness about the importance of reading among the students of the school.

The program gained the delight and approval of students and their guardians.

Chairman of Ikhlas Private School is Eng. Mohammed Al-Sayegh and the school won the title of most distinguished school in Kuwait.

Kuwait has full capability to develop economy: Al-Anzi

'Remove obstacles to develop industrial sector'

Rabab Al-Jowhari
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: Experts have called for removal of obstacles to the development of industrial sector.

In this context, Director of Small Scale Projects at the Government and Manpower Reconstruction Program (GMRP) Engineer Fares Al-Anzi affirmed that Kuwait has full capability to develop its economy. He noted failure of 80 percent of projects — whether major or minor are attributable to long procedures and lack of information in reviewing relevant studies and researches.

He added the industrial sector encounters many problems, including lack of plots/land and extensive official procedures, while financing is another major problem. He called for motivation of industrial sector in the current era of low oil prices and lack of investment opportunities.

For his part, industrial expert Engineer Muhammad Al-Qae'i mentioned several obstacles to the development of the sector, including poor planning and lack of lands to establish industrial projects in the absence of relevant laws to protect the local production and Kuwaiti industry. He stressed that law obliging the official bodies to give priority to local produce with 10 percent discount is not activated compared to imported products.

Former Director General of Public Authority for Industry Nasser Al-Ejail also stated unavailability of lands and labor threatens the development of industry. He pointed to relevant laws stressing the importance of reform and called upon the Government to supply mass production industry the needed electricity.

Chairman of the Board of Directors at Kuwait Industry Company Muhammad Al-Naqi also requested concerned official bodies to revise laws affecting the industrial sector, especially the issuance of licenses.

MPW to sign 3 contracts in coming months

500 receipts issued per day through 'WhatsApp' – MEW

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: Ministry of Electricity and Water issued 1,000 receipts on the first day of implementation of electricity and water bill payments through "WhatsApp", reports Al-Rai daily.

According to sources affiliated to the ministry, the average number of receipts issued by the ministry through its new payment service is about 500 receipts per day.

They said, "There is a significant response from the consumers who are seeking to settle their water and electricity through WhatsApp".

The sources explained that the application does not cost the ministry much compared to the expenses borne by the ministry in collecting dues through traditional means. This new service saves millions of dinars of the State Treasury. It will also help in increasing the rate of collection of dues, which the ministry is keen about, as it is public money which needs to be preserved, especially amid the increase in the tariffs for the commercial and investment sectors.



Al-Hassan

Meanwhile, they revealed that the ministry has completed its field survey to separate the water and electricity meters of the commercial and investment buildings in all areas of Kuwait.

The sources urged the consumer leasing stores for commercial activities to "separate the meters and allocate a meter for each commercial activity in order to avoid the entire premises to be billed based on the tariffs of commercial service".

Furthermore, Assistant Undersecretary for Road Engineering Sector at the Ministry of Public Works Eng Ahmed Al-Hassan announced that three contracts will be signed within the coming months as part of the ministry's development plan, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Hassan revealed the three tenders include improvement of Abdali Road from Mutla'a City to the Regional Road intersection, Salmi Road (first stage) and South Surra Road (second stage).

He affirmed the contracts are ready and they are just waiting for the monitoring bodies' approval.

He added a number of agreements will be launched soon such as the construction and maintenance of bridges and roads along the Second Ring Road and Damascus Street, as well as the construction and maintenance of rainwater drainage system in the northern and southern urban areas.

He also disclosed that 30 percent of the construction and maintenance of intersections in the western part of the Fifth Ring Road has been completed, affirming the project is progressing ahead of schedule.

He said the expected hand over date of the project is in January 2020 with a total cost of KD 108, 800,000. He added the project shall serve areas in the western part of the Fifth Ring Road including Ardiya, Ferdous, Sulaibiya, Sulaibikhat, South Doha and Al-Qairawan.

He went on to say that the number of lanes will increase from three to four in each direction once the project is completed, in addition to byroads and emergency lanes.

He explained the project aims to enhance safety levels and increase maximum speed from 80 kms to 120 kms per hour, indicating the specified implementation period for the project is 46 months.



News in Brief

PAHW working on preparing tenders: Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) affirmed that the concerned department will prepare the tender for implementation of South Abdullah Al-Mubarak Housing Project after the Planning and Design Department completes the final plan of the project and gets it approved before distributing plots to the housing applicants, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to an informed source, PAHW is working on preparing the tender documents before presenting them to the concerned government agencies.

He said, "After implementation of the applied procedures, the tender will be floated and then awarded to the winning company, followed by the signing of the contract, which is expected early next year".

The source added he is expecting the completion of the tender for this project, which contains 3,260 plots, by beginning of the next fiscal year.

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Bu Elya set to receive science students: Dean of the College of Science at Kuwait University Professor Abdulhadi Bu Elya stated the college is all set to receive students for the new academic year 2017/2018.



Bu Elya

He added the building of Professor Faiza Al-Kharafi has been equipped with the required facilities to receive students and to facilitate their registration procedures. He noted 39 classrooms plus 11 laboratories have been renewed, furnished and equipped, in addition to two main study halls.

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New lists prepared for reshuffle: New lists with names of some officials from departments of Nutrition and Public Hygiene of all branches of Kuwait Municipality in all six governorates have been prepared as a prelude to launching a wide reshuffle, reports Al-Rai daily quoting a reliable source.

He said the lists were approved at the beginning of this week, indicating that the reshuffle will also include directors of audit and follow-up of municipality services, health and market inspectors, inspectors of hygiene and senior inspectors in all governorates.

'Kuwait plays vital role in regional security, stability'

PM hands over written message from Amir to Erdogan

ANKARA, Sept 13, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, at the onset of his official visit to Turkey on Wednesday, met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Presidential Palace in capital Ankara.

Emerging from the meeting, His Highness the Premier said that he handed over a written message from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to President Erdogan, dealing with the means of boosting bilateral relations and issues of joint concern.

His Highness the Premier indicated that the meeting touched on regional, international issues and the two countries' stances toward these topics.

His Highness, accompanied by a delegation of ranking officials, arrived in Ankara, earlier today. His Highness the Premier's delegation was received at the airport by Turkish Minister of Economy Nihat Zeybekci and Kuwaiti diplomats.

He expressed in arrival remarks pride of the historic and deep-rooted relations between Kuwait and Turkey, affirming that his visit depicted mutual desire to develop further the close ties.

These relations have recently witnessed tangible improvement in political, commercial, economic, tourist and cultural domains, he said, "however we have always aspired to bolstering the cooperation between the two countries in many other domains." Kuwait, which views Turkey as a key economic partner, has always sought to deepen the bonds with Ankara, enhancing commercial exchanges and creating new joint investment opportunities, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak added.

He confirmed that his talks with Turkish leaders would tackle means of cementing the bilateral relations and cooperation at diverse levels.

Meanwhile, Kuwait, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, plays a vital role in maintaining regional security and stability, said Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim Wednesday.

In an exclusive interview with KUNA, Yilidirim indicated that the visit by Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah will contribute to the development of ties as desired by both Kuwaiti and Turkish leaderships as well as people.

Bilateral relations are strong and both countries are eager to pursue more cooperative venues, said Yildirim who revealed that there were more than 40 signed agreements and memos between the two nations.

He indicated that cooperation in the defense domain is one of the sectors that his country was eager to develop with Kuwait. He added that regional challenges required such solidarity among world countries.

Yildirim called for expanding the volume of commercial exchange with Kuwait, increasing the number from $1.2 billion in 2016 to $5 billion in the near future.



KUNA photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah meets with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.



Al-Qabas daily photo

Abdullah Al-Twarawah and Suad Abdullah in 'Nawaya' (Intentions)

2nd part of 'Nawaya' series eyed

Ministry of Information is working on bringing back the pioneers of art to the television screen especially during the holy month of Ramadan next year, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The ministry has made progress in negotiating and agreeing in principle with the renowned artiste Suad Abdullah to produce the second part of the series "Nawaya", which was presented last year and achieved great success.

Suad Abdullah visited Ministry of Information mid of last month, met with the Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Development and spokesman of Ministry of Information Mohammed Abdulmohsen Al-Awash and discussed the issue, which was described as fruitful.

Al-Ghunaim attends 36th session of UNHRC

Kuwait fully 'supports' global efforts on peace culture: official

GENEVA, Sept 13, (KUNA): Kuwait expressed full commitment to spread peace culture around the world.

This came during the 36th session of the UN Human Rights Council on Tuesday.

Kuwait strongly believes in protecting the economic, social, political, cultural and civil rights of all people, said Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the European headquarters of the UN and international organizations in Geneva Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim.

Every society should have the freedom to apply human rights laws in accordance with their culture and beliefs, without the interference of outsiders in the name of international human values, the ambassador said.

For example, the call for international human rights principles does not mean following rules that go against the teachings of our own religion "Islam", he explained.

Meanwhile, Al-Ghunaim noted that Kuwait is deeply concerned about ongoing armed conflicts in the Arab World that claim many lives, violate human rights laws and halt the development process.

He spoke about the Israeli crimes against Palestinians and the international community's failure to put an end to such violations.

Al-Ghunaim also expressed Kuwait's full support to the international fight against terrorism and extremism.

The Kuwaiti official called on the international community to provide financial support for the UN Commission on Human Rights to enable it to expand and develop its work.

The ambassador affirmed that Kuwait is willing to cooperate with the commission on all levels to protect human rights and achieve sustainable development.

News in Brief

Plots for young entrepreneurs: The capital commission in the Municipal Council on Wednesday blessed a plan to allocate plots of land in the country's governorates for young Kuwaiti entrepreneurs to display their products and promote their ventures.

Dr Hassan Kamal, member of the committee, said in a statement to journalists that the commission recommended forming a team to specify the locations and work out permits' mechanisms. The State of Kuwait adopts a strategy aimed at encouraging young businesspersons and enterprises. Authorities have recently invited such businesspersons to erect kiosks at the public schools, as part of this approach. (KUNA)

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Bid to combat terrorism: Kuwait National Security Bureau Chief Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah discussed with Australia's official in charge of counterterrorism Paul Foley issues related to combating terrorism and strengthening bilateral cooperation.

In a statement Wednesday, Sheikh Thamer stressed out Kuwait's efforts with the international community to counter terror and dry up its sources.

The meeting was attended by the Australian Ambassador to Kuwait Warren Hauck and Assistant Director of the counterterrorism Department for the Middle East and Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bred Jung. (KUNA)

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'Sajjel', 'Utrujjah' launched: Director of the Islamic Studies Department at Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr Fahd Aljenfawi declared the launch of the campaigns titled "Sajjel" and "Utrujjah" for the first semester students of the year 2017/2018 at the Quranic centers, reports Al-Seyassah daily. He explained that students of both genders, of different levels and of different nationalities can register.

Applicants have to be 15 years or more of age and should have completed the elementary level. The courses are available in the morning and evening shifts and in all six governorates. Joining the Islamic Studies Institute requires passing the exams of the Quranic centers. The institute has a Quranic Affairs Department and a Department for Islamic Propagation. The course study lasts for two years, divided into four semesters and the classes will be held three days per week.

Kuwait invests oil revenues to attain HH Amir's vision: minister

Al-Sabeeh speaks at launch of 'Mapping oil, gas industry to SDGs' report

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13, (KUNA): Kuwait invests oil and gas revenues to achieve His Highness the Amir's vision to turn the country into a regional financial and commercial hub, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh said Wednesday.

Such a pioneering role is carried out through implementing the government's national development plans, including diversifying the Kuwaiti economy's production base, Al-Sabeeh added.

She made her remarks in a speech marking the launch of "Mapping the oil and gas industry to the Sustainable Development Goals: An Atlas" report held at the UN House, aka (also known as) Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's Building.

Since its independence, Kuwait has linked the oil industry to the sustainable development goals, and also harnessed its resources to enhance infrastructure and social development, said the minister.

Al-Sabeeh also pointed out the report's importance in highlighting Kuwait's status as one of the important oil-producing countries in the world, and a country that utilizes oil and gas incomes to implement its government's development efforts.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and IPIECA launched the joint report, "Mapping the oil and gas industry to the Sustainable Development Goals: An Atlas," on July 24, according to UNDP's website.

Report

The report illustrates how the oil and gas industry links to and can contribute to address each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by integrating into core business operations and by identifying opportunities for oil and gas companies to collaborate with other stakeholders, and leverage experiences and resources to implement each goal.

Meanwhile, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs affirmed on Wednesday the government keenness on buttressing renewable energy sector.

Kuwait has made tangible progress in sustainable development, said the minister in remarks to KUNA, on sidelines of a ceremony marking launch of the international report on linking up oil and gas with sustainable development objectives, held at the local UN headquarters (named Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Humanitarian Action Center).

The cabinet is currently pondering a mega renewable energy project following the successful venture in Al-Shaqaya.

The National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development has encouraged young entrepreneurs to invest in sustainable energy projects, such as treating plastic and paper waste and transforming them into energy.

A plant, run by young Kuwaitis, will be launched in October. It will be the first of its kind in the country.

The UN report said that emissions from oil and gas sectors can be totally stopped. It also noted that the sector could help in the efforts against poverty by securing energy to all parts of the world.

Moreover, these sectors can be helpful for attaining goals of sustainable development by improving teaching, achieving gender equality and securing clean water resources.



Premkumar receiving the award in New Delhi.

CBSE honors principal of Bhavans-Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: T. Premkumar, Principal of the Indian Educational School (Bhavans), Kuwait has been honored by the Central Board of Secondary Education with the 'CBSE Teachers' Award 2016' for his hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, passion for excellence.

One of the most successful CBSE principals in the Middle East, he is the only awardee from abroad among the 33 teachers from across India.

The award ceremony was held recently in New Delhi in the presence of newly appointed CBSE Chairperson Anita Karwal IAS, Member Secretary NCTE Sanjay Awasthi, Director NCERT Dr Hrushikesh Senapaty, Secretary of CBSE Anurag Tripathi and several other distinguished dignitaries from the MHRD, representatives of NVS, KVS and government schools.

The selection of the awardees is based on the academic efficiency and improvement, interest, reputation in the community, perseverance, and commitment towards education.

The award has been instituted by the Central Board of Secondary Education to honor and acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the great educators.

Premkumar began his career as a research assistant at the Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Centre, Chennai and later at the Tarapur Nuclear Reactor, Mumbai, in 'the extraction of uranium in spent fuels'.

He forsook well-paid government job to follow his heart and become a teacher. He found little happiness in dealing with exanimate chemical elements and decided to pursue his dream.

The newly-recruited middle school teacher rose to the rank of a senior PGT within no time and in due course of time was promoted to the position of the Head of the Faculty, Department of Chemistry following his ascension to the position of the vice-principal of the higher secondary section of one of the largest co-educational schools in the Gulf region, Indian School, Muscat.

His contribution to the field of private education in Muscat, Oman earned him a letter of commendation from Simon's College, Boston, USA.

He also served the CBSE Muscat Chapter as the Educational adviser. He was nominated as the convener of the Oman Chapter for two years consecutively.

A major milestone in the career of Premkumar was his decision to be a part of the renowned Bhavans group of institutions in the Middle East.

He joined Indian Educational School in 2010 as the principal of the flagship school owned by the Abu Dhabi based Bhavans Middle East which runs nearly a dozen premium schools across the Middle East.

In his pursuit for perfection, Bhavans Kuwait found itself as the 'Gulf Topper School, Center for CBSE Math Olympiad, and many more literary and language events such as the Balakalamela championship, Xpression Championship, St. Berchaman's Extempore Speech Competition, etc. Bhavanites have even left their footprints in Slovenia where they have proved their might and mettle in the International Debate Contest.

Premkumar acknowledges the invaluable guidance of N.K. Ramachandran Menon, Chairman, Bhavans Middle East, Abu Dhabi in transforming Bhavans Kuwait into a school with a vision and a mission for the global learners of the 21st century.





KUNA photo

Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah at the meeting.

Arab FMs back Kuwait's steps against Abdali cell

'Rebuilding Iraq' move lauded

CAIRO, Sept 13, (KUNA): Arab League council of foreign ministers affirmed Tuesday their support to all measures taken by the State of Kuwait regarding the terrorist "Al-Abdali cell", and reasserted rejection to Iranian interference.

In a final communique at the 148th session, the council hailed Kuwait's efforts along with GCC countries through also their attempt to create channels for dialogue with Iran to bolster security and stability in the region.

The council condemned Iranian interference in Arab internal affairs and considered it a violation of International law, including the principle of good neighborliness and states sovereignty, stressing importance of cooperation between Arab countries and Iran based on good neighborliness and refrain from the use or threat of force.

The Council called on Iran to end acts of provocation that would undermine confidence building and threaten security and stability in the region.

The council renewed also its condemnation of the attacks on the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Tehran and its consulate in Mashhad, and to hold Iran responsible for these acts, and demanded Tehran to abide by the international conventions and treaties in this regard, especially the 1963 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

The council condemned statements made by Iranian officials against Arab countries, urging the Iranian government to stop intimidating statements and acts of provocation and to stop media campaigns against the Arab countries as a blatant interference in the internal affairs of these countries.

The council called on Iran to stop policies that would feed sectarianism and sectarian conflicts and refrain from supporting groups that fuel these conflicts in the Arab Gulf states, calling on the Iranian government to stop supporting and funding militias and armed parties in the Arab countries.

The Council condemned Iran's continuing occupation of the three islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Moussa, stressing its support for all peaceful measures taken by the UAE to restore its sovereignty over its occupied islands in accordance with international law.

The council condemned as well Iranian intervention in the Syrian crisis and the serious repercussions it would have on Syria's future, security, sovereignty, stability, national unity and territorial integrity, stressing that such intervention would not serve the efforts exerted to end the crisis peacefully.

The Arab Foreign Ministers also welcomed State of Kuwait's hosting of an international conference to rebuild areas in Iraqi that were liberated from terrorists.

His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah called Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar Al-Abadi following the liberation of Mosul, and offered to host the international conference, which Kuwait said might be held during the first quarter next year.



Al-Abadi

The foreign ministers meanwhile called on importance of supporting Arab governments, namely Iraq's, to cope with growing needs of displaced persons.

They called for rebuilding the liberated areas in Iraq and to involve the private sector until the return of the displaced to their homes.

They proposed an Arab League-sponsored international conference to discuss the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) inside the Arab countries.

They approved a plan to support the IDPs in Arab countries to improve their living conditions.

The Arab foreign ministers have assigned Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul Gheit to form a ministerial panel to rally international opposition to Israel's bid to nominate for the UN Security Council (UNSC) non-permanent seat for the 2019-20 term.

At the conclusion of their 148 regular meeting at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo, the foreign ministers also urged the UNSC to put in place all UN resolutions related to the Palestinian cause.

They denounced the recent Israeli legislations to undermine chances for just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East as well as the Israeli illegal actions to extend its grip over the occupied East Jerusalem.

They encouraged world countries, UNSC permanent members to recognize the independent Palestinian state to safeguard the two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

They reiterated support to the Arab peace initiative of 2002 to achieve comprehensive peace with Israel in return for the liberation of occupied Arab land.

They called for intensifying efforts to rally international support to the Palestinian indelible right of self-determination and independent state.

They stressed the need for pressing Israel to release all Palestinian prisoners and find a solution to the ordeal of Palestinian refugees.

The ministers urged the UNSC members to approve a full membership of the State of Palestine in the United Nations.

News in Brief

Yemeni's car stolen: An unknown individual drove off with a Yemeni expatriate's car of 2017-model, reports Al-Anba daily.

In the complaint he lodged with Rumaithiya police station, the car owner said he left his car in operating condition for a few minutes in front of an Iranian bakery to buy bread worth 250 fils.

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Thieves take sheep: An unknown person broke into a livestock pen in Salmi area and stole five sheep belonging to a Kuwaiti citizen.

The citizen lodged a complaint at the Salmi Police Station. He said the Asian caretaker of his livestock notified him about the theft early in the morning, saying the perpetrator had broken the fence and carted away all five sheep.

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Death cheated: An unidentified woman sustained serious injuries when she was run over by two vehicles, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, she was crossing Fourth Ring Road when a 27-year old Indian expatriate driving a 4WD run over her followed by a 32-year old Syrian expatriate. Both motorists have been referred to the concerned authorities while the woman was rushed to Sabah Hospital.

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Car broken into: An unknown individual broke one of the windows of a Jordanian woman's car in Salmiya area and stole her personal belongings and some important documents belonging to the company she works for, reports Al-Rai daily.

She rushed to Salmiya Police Station and reported that she was visiting her friend in an apartment building in Salmiya area when the incident happened. She explained that she had parked her car in the parking lot of the building where her friend stays. When she returned, she was surprised to discover the car had been broken into and the thief had stolen some of her personal belongings that she had left in the car along with a set of important documents of her company.

A case was filed and a team from Criminal Investigations lifted fingerprints to identify and arrest the suspect.



Cams eyed in mosques

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: Assistant Undersecretary for Mosques Affairs at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr Dawood Al-Asoussi said the Ministry is preparing a tender for the supply, installation and maintenance of cameras in mosques, the houses of Holy Quran and the ministry's administrative buildings, reports Al-Anba daily.

The tender documents and the specifications of the materials have been prepared, and shall cover more than 1,500 facilities. Al-Assousi announced 25 percent of total 3,000 cameras donated by Zain have already been installed for internal and external monitoring of mosques affiliated to the Ministry of Awqaf in all governorates.

DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Persecution decades old'

'US key to ending crisis'

"MYANMAR or what was earlier called Burma was actually ruled by military regimes for about fifty years," columnist and former MP *Dr Salah Al-Ateeqi* wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Myanmar has the biggest Buddhist temple in the world. It has been persecuting the Muslim minority for several decades and until now through various types of methods.

"However, about five years ago, we as members of the former National Assembly heard about the tragedy of the 'Burmese Muslims' and we decided to form a parliamentary delegation to pay a visit to Myanmar to investigate this tragedy like any other facts finding committee and in our capacity as members of the then Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly.

"Prior to our departure to Myanmar, we got in touch with the Kuwaiti ambassador in the capital of the country which was then called Rangoon and he contacted the concerned authorities in Myanmar to make necessary arrangements for the visit.

"This delegation comprised the then MP Saleh Ashour, Captain Taher Al-Failakawi and myself. We had meetings with the then Myanmar Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor. Both ministers were members of the military institution.

"During our meetings with these two ministers we told them about what we had heard about the persecution of the Muslims in their country and exactly in the Rakhine province (Arakan).

"However, although they denied reports of persecution, during our meeting with some Muslim leaders which were arranged by the Kuwaiti ambassador to Myanmar, they confirmed Muslims had been persecuted. They said Muslims were persecuted by all means. However, our meeting with these leaders remained a top secret.

"Not just that, they said the meeting was held after making some hasty complicated arrangements and the Muslims leaders declined to reveal their identities, but we in turn made an excuse for them.

"During our meeting with these Muslim leaders, we observed that they were attaching hopes on the opposition party led by Aung San Suu Kyi, the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize to come to power hoping this woman to deal with them fair and square, but unfortunately, time has revealed that this woman cannot do anything.



Dr Al-Ateeqi

"Apart from the above, these leaders told us that they are not in a position even to seek assistance because they didn't receive any assistance from abroad, since the Burmese government doesn't allow foreign assistance to reach the country.

"This happened although some Gulf countries had attempted in vain to send humanitarian assistance to Rakhine but in spite of the pressures on the Burmese government by the international community over the past years, the government in Myanmar insisted not to respond to any pressure.

"Meanwhile, the Muslim leaders told us they don't need financial assistance, rather protection from the Burmese killers saying the persecution had reached a point of no return. It was unbearable to such an extent they were not allowed to give their children Muslim names. Hence, we had observed that every Muslim had two names – a house name and official name.

"In this context, we recall how one of these leaders told us not to exert any effort in this connection because the Burmese government was seemingly determined not to pay attention to Muslim countries.

"This government was reckless when it came to dealing with Muslim countries, particularly in the wake of improving ties with the United States of America since Washington has huge investments in Myanmar, and is the only nation that can force Myanmar to change its internal policy.

"However, these Muslim leaders added as such if you have influence with the Americans then use it, otherwise your visit will have no effect and nothing will benefit us.

"After we returned to Kuwait, we prepared a report about the situation in Myanmar and submitted it to the Kuwaiti Parliament, but until now we know nothing about the fate of this report, because the National Assembly was dissolved in 2012.

"In conclusion, we pray to Almighty Allah to protect the Muslims in Myanmar — it is the Almighty Allah only who can do everything."

Also:

"Russia Today Satellite TV Channel recently broadcast the live coverage of peaceful marches in many Russian cities in a prelude to celebrate one hundred years of the Bolshevik Revolution," columnist and former director of the Culture Department at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) *Waleed Al-Rujaib* wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"It was observed that the participants in these marches were carrying the Russian Communist Party flag in addition to banners calling for global peace and anti war slogans.

"This happened although a majority of the participants were young men and women, not many from the so-called 'Old Guard' representing the Communist Party.

"Not just that, these young participants were wearing army uniforms of the former Soviet Union to mark the anniversary of the Soviet Union Red Army victory against the Nazism during the World War II.

"However, the celebrations to be held this year will be attended by a host of intellectuals and artistes in addition to a dialogue which will be attended by a galaxy of various communist and labor parties in addition to the youth organizations and unions and International Democratic Women's Federation and many peace organizations of the world.

"Given the above, the celebrations are expected to be huge commensurate to the event. Not just that, the occasion shall witness the organization of many artistic fairs in various European capitals and cities including London and Malaga of Spain to mark the anniversary of the greatest revolution in the history which actually changed the face and the map of the world.

"However, some intellectuals say marking the anniversary should not be confined to holding celebrations in praise of the past, rather this should be exploited to discuss the follies of the socialists including the ignorance of democracy and how to create the necessary methods in dealing with the Marxist Theory in a manner that should keep abreast with the contemporary requirements.

"Meanwhile, some observers say Marxism still attracts the youth who are looking forward to social justice and world peace and that the use of the global wealth rests in the socialism.

"Last December, the Russian President Vladimir Putin had formed a committee for marking the anniversary of the Communist Revolution — a measure that was seen by some people as diverting the attention from protests and rebellions that were likely to be organized to mark the said event motivated by the desire of these people to reinstate socialist system into the country particular by those who suffer under the current capitalistic system as well from the related mafias."

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"The visit of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the US on the third anniversary of his naming as humanitarian leader by the UN is significant indeed, "columnist *Fahd Dawoud Al-Sabah* wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"The visit represents HH the Amir's optimism and keeness to spread the principle of peace around the world amid self-devotion to resolve disputes among his brothers. That's why his visits — whether on the regional, international or Kuwaiti-American level needs to be interpreted carefully.

"Kuwaiti investments in America, according to the minister of finance, are worth approximately $400 billion and are deemed a crucial component of the largest economy in the world, indicating active participation of Kuwait in such a giant economy will yield many denefits.

"Even so, exchange of experiences and extension of Kuwaiti-American partnership need to be enhanced. The meeting of His Highness the Amir and his children studying in various institutions in the US stimulated the students to put the utmost effort to acquire knowledge to fulfill the vision of HH the Amir of Kuwait and its future through highly educated citizens who are capable of serving society.

"On the regional level, the plain speech of the Amir concerning the ongoing Gulf dispute set the record straight and cleared ambiguities shrouding the issue, stressing he's pushing for a solution to the crisis to avoid possible disintegration of Gulf unity in such critical era."

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"During his press conference in Washington with US President Donald Trump, the diplomatic humanitarian leader His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah explained to the American and international media his role of mediating in the Gulf crisis. Everyone was dazzled by the transparent and convincing statements of His Highness the Amir concerning his mediation role in the Gulf crisis", Abdulmohsen *Mohammad Al-Husseini* wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"His responses to the questions of journalists give high hopes about the resolution of the crisis among the sisterly countries. Everyone across the globe expressed appreciation for the positive diplomacy of His Highness the Amir.

"He vowed that he will not stop, but will continue to work in bringing the brothers closer.

"His Highness the Amir said he hoped the media wrangling regarding the Gulf dispute would be brought to an end so that focus can be made on the desired rapprochement, and the efforts of those who seek to deepen the differences between the Gulf States can be curbed."

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"The speech of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah after the Kuwait-US summit held at the White House was filled with wisdom, and showcased the ability of this diplomatic humanitarian leader to assess situations and circumstances sensibly and draw sound conclusions, as well as his several years of experience," *Ibrahim Adeeb Al-Awadhi* wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"This speech has given hope for a solution to the Qatari-Gulf crisis, which has become a matter of concern for all GCC citizens since last Ramadan. The speech highlighted on the need for tolerance, brotherhood, healing and forgiveness, as well as a sincere desire for the return of brotherhood in the Gulf house just like in the many yesteryears. It would not have been so, had it not been for the prudent and wise policy pursued by His Highness the Amir which he acquired internally and externally during his years in the field of politics from his youth until date.

"However, to be more realistic and to call things by their names, it is better for us to say that the speech gave a very small glimmer of hope, nothing more! The statements that followed the speech of His Highness from both sides of the dispute and at the time of writing this article do not give room for optimism at all, but they have given clear and direct impressions that the efforts to resolve this dispute are back to zero again!"

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"I have lately noticed huge mistakes into which some of the members of the Cabinet and Parliament fall. Despite the fact that making mistakes is possible in any field of work, the strange thing is the silent position adopted by some MPs and political factions in calling for rectification of such mistakes and providing remedy," *Ahmad Baqer* wrote for **Aljarida** daily.

"In the past, whenever the government proposes a bad law, for instance concerning the state properties or the rights of citizens, people used to engage in fierce campaign against the government, especially against the concerned members of the Cabinet. Heavy pressure was exacted on the Cabinet and its ministers in a bid to withdraw or repeal such controversial proposals.

"However, these days we see other ministers proposing laws which are more damaging to the state properties or the rights of citizens or public funds. Various regulations such as those related to promotions and recruitment are being violated. The saddest thing is that those who used to protest in the past have now become mute and perhaps deaf.

"His Highness the Prime Minister shouldn't fall for such tactics due to his huge constitutional role that he has in this country in terms of monitoring the ministers and the level of adhering to the laws. He also shouldn't forget the essence and objectives of the directives he adopts.

"All these apply also on the people so that they can avoid falling into the same trap. This can be achieved by maintaining proper awareness of what is transpiring in the country and also having the ability to remember the past in a manner so that following the same unjustified political games can be avoided."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

Other Voices

Application elusive

'Jedea' and expatriates

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

Anyone who attacks and criticizes the expatriates in the belief they are taking the jobs away from citizens is disdainful and incapable of doing anything worthy.

This person may be seeking fame and might have got the votes of the ignorant people and the mobs, while he is undoubtedly aware that these expatriates did not force their way into our country.

They did not oblige us to accept them or stormed into our land and air or violated our borders and forced us to undergo medical tests or examine their security and criminal records and then placed residence stickers on their passports.



Al-Sarraf

We are the ones who did all of this and accepted them because of our inability, unwillingness or failure to do the tasks that sometimes need hands and minds more often than not and between these and those we cannot do such tasks.

The state-owned Industrial Institute of Shuwaikh which opened its doors in the 1950s, trained hundreds of Kuwaiti technicians, they graduated from this institute but failed to provide anything worthwhile to any of our facilities even to one of them after millions of dinars were spent to train them. The whole country has been hit by this failure and perhaps the education and the oil sectors were hardest hit.

Ahmad Al-Arbeed wrote an article in Al-Qabas on August 27 under the title 'Jedea al-Mutairi', a man equal to a thousand men. He stated that he met Jedea, the Kuwaiti working in the Kuwait Oil Company and the latter took Arbeed on a tour of the oil facilities. He learned from this semi-literate worker a lot which he did not even learn even from a graduate of the American University and at the end of the article Al-Arbeed praised Jedea and described him as 'thousand men'. But what is next?

Mr Al-Arbeed was promoted and became Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Oil Company, as Chairman and Managing Director of other oil companies, but he did not do anything either to Jedea or to hundreds of men like him who worked with dedication and sincerity in the company.

Perhaps it is not the fault of Jedea but it is still the fault of the government and policies of dispensing with the services of the citizen, replacing him with a thousand expatriates to satisfy the MPs and the influential people who employ those who they want.

The story of Jedea is impressive but it did nothing to urge Arbeed or other heads of companies and ministers to put in place the proper and practical programs to train national cadres within long-term programs.

We show no urgency in applying the policy of replacing without proper qualification and training as was the case in the program of Khalid Al-Masoud, which is related to the Kuwaitization of the education sector. The result was disastrous, and we continue to pay for it, and we hope that the same mistake will not be repeated in the draft of Minister Azab concerning shortening the term of prosecutors and the urgency of promoting them to become judges.

Yes, Jedea was a man equal to a thousand men, so he had to go so that they could put a thousand men in his place.

The funny, but sad thing is that Mr Al-Arbeed was behind the idea of making Kuwait the oil capital of the world and said this depends primarily on the national human element to be the cornerstone of development in the coming years, but he may have forgotten that he had already sacrificed Jedea and others and replaced them with expatriates, perhaps for his own ambitions, or perhaps in response to the pressures of his religious political party, or the government and MPs.

Conclusion: Setting up ideas is beautiful, writing articles easy, demonstrating administrative muscles is the easiest, but the lesson to be learnt is in the application.

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e-mail: habibi.enta1@gmail.com

Court Cases

Court acquits singer

'Terror' hearing on Oct 17

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: The Criminal Court adjourned to Oct 17 the case filed against a young Kuwaiti woman who was accused of joining an illegal organization in Sinai Governorate in Egypt. The case was adjourned for presentation of the defense documents, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Public Prosecution had charged the young woman of belonging to an illegal organization with the aim of destroying the country's basic systems and jeopardizing the country's political relations with a friendly country.

The suspect revealed details about her departure from the country, explaining that the members of the organization had tricked her. After discovering their false slogans, she had refused to carry out any of the operations they demanded. They then detained her until her father paid KD 5,000 for her release.

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Singer acquitted: The Misdemeanor Court of Appeals cancelled the verdict issued by a lower court which sentenced a Kuwaiti singer to three-month imprisonment for allegedly insulting and threatening a police officer in a popular commercial complex. The court instead acquitted him due to lack of evidences, reports Al-Anba daily.

The police officer had filed a complaint against the singer, explaining that he tried to intervene in a quarrel, which broke out in a commercial complex, with the intention of resolving it. However, the singer insulted and threatened him using words and gestures.

The singer denied the allegations, accusing the officer of verbally abusing him.

The court also acquitted the officer.

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Penalty withheld: The Criminal Court refrained from penalizing two citizens who were accused of assaulting a Syrian citizen which resulted in 15 percent permanent disability. The court ordered the two defendants to pay a warrant of KD 300 and maintain good conduct for a period of one year, says Al-Seyassah.

The court said the ruling was influenced by lack of proper investigations by the detectives, which was highlighted by the defense lawyer Mohammad Al-Husseini.

He also highlighted the existence of five medical reports and several contradicting statements, stressing that the Public Prosecution depended only on plaintiff's statements without any witnesses or any other presumptions.

Lawyer Al-Husseini also stressed the lack of substantial evidences and criminal intent for the defendants to commit similar crime, revealing about reconciliation between his clients and the plaintiff.

News in Brief

Lawyer sues firm: Lawyer Bushra Al-Hindal has filed a lawsuit on behalf of a number of citizens against a contracting company, accusing the latter of deceiving her clients, as the company did not fulfill its pledges and kept on procrastinating, says Al-Seyassah.



Al-Hindal

Lawyer Al-Hindal explained that the company, which was assigned to complete some construction and renovation projects, used to complete part of the work on time after receiving the agreed amounts, and then suspended the works. This practice of the company caused much trouble for her clients. Even if the company finished a project, it was not in par with the agreed technical quality.

She said she sought to refer the issue to the court after friendly discussions with the company had failed in fixing the issue.

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3 Kuwaitis held: A Kuwaiti citizen, who is wanted by law for a financial case worth KD 70,000, was arrested in Jahra area, says Al-Seyassah.

He was referred to the Sentences Enforcement Department where necessary legal action will be taken.

In addition, two Kuwaiti citizens were arrested in Farwaniya area in possession of heroin, hashish, narcotic pills and drug paraphernalia.

At the time of the arrest, they were under narcotic influence.

They were referred to the Drugs Control General Department for necessary legal action.

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Woman swindled: Personnel from the Criminal Investigations Department have arrested a young Kuwaiti who is well-known in social media circles for cheating a young Iranian woman, reports Annahar daily.

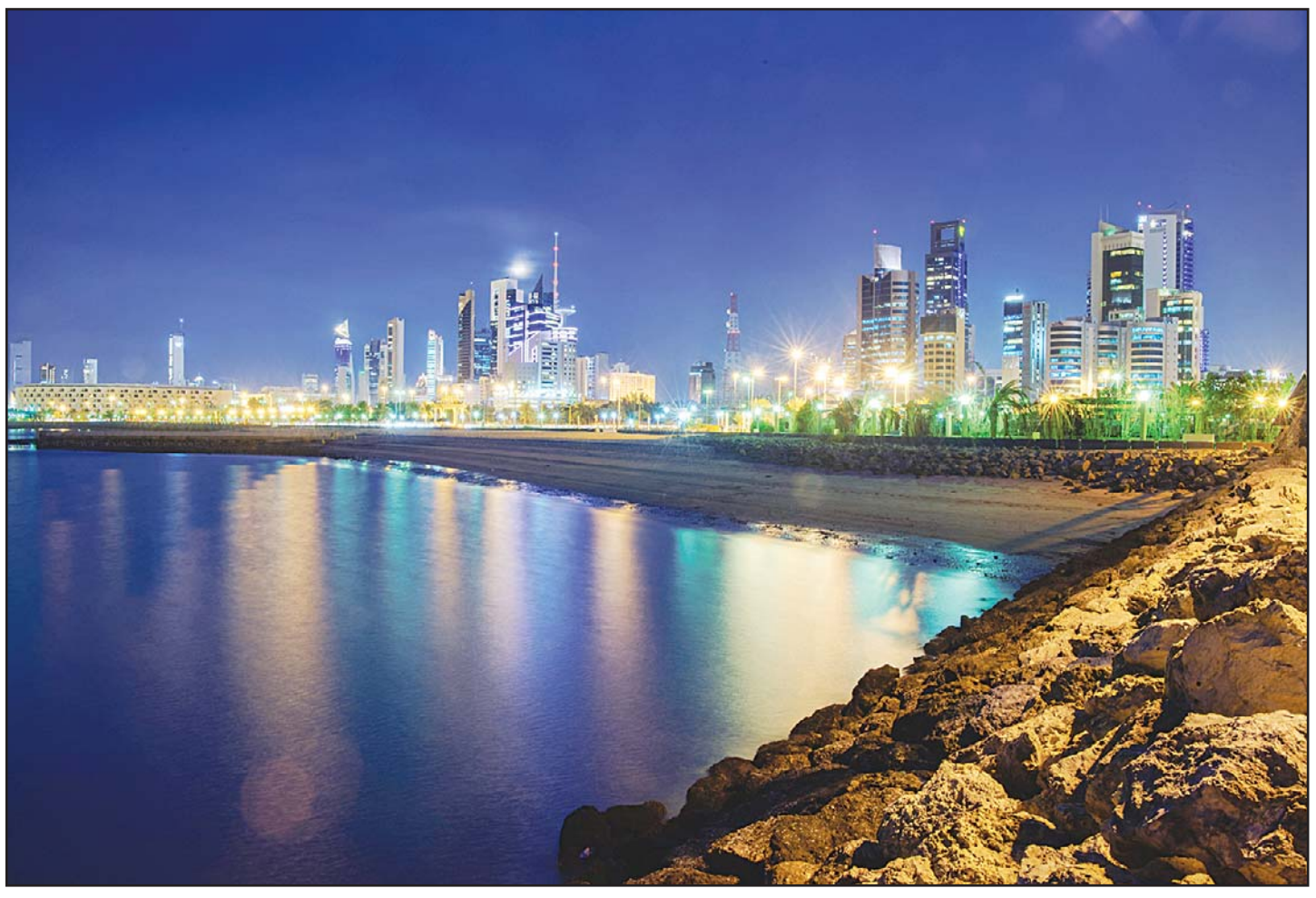
The suspect reportedly lured the victim to invest KD 10,000 in a project and disappeared after receiving the money.

The suspect was arrested after the woman filed a complaint against him.

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Cross-dressers brawl: A quarrel broke out between a Syrian expatriate and two cross-dressers in front of a popular restaurant, resulting in injuries to one of the latter, says Al-Seyassah.

According to a security source, the two cross-dressers reported at Hawally Police Station that they were having their lunch in a restaurant when the suspect came there and started harassing and insulting them.



Kuwait City during the blue hour, which refers to the period of twilight, in the morning and evening, when the sun is at a significant depth below the horizon, which takes on a predominantly blue shade. (Abdulrazzaq Saleh — KUNA)

Indians stealing, providing public sat channels caught

Bachelors target as robberies see steep rise

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: Personnel from the Criminal Investigations Department headed by Acting Director-General Major-General Mohammad Al-Sharhan have arrested a gang of Indians for trespassing into the basic broadcasting offices of a company and gave channels connection to a number of buildings in Salmiya illegally and earning KD 70,000 monthly, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, the Criminal Investigations Department had received a report on the gang last Ramadan about the illegal activity in Salmiya. The gang had allegedly connected 55 satellite channels owned by a local company to residential buildings illegally, a crime which falls under the category of piracy of intellectual property.

The sources said intensive investigations revealed the identity of three Indians who were active for the past 8 months and had allegedly made their headquarters in one of the residential buildings in Salmiya complete with broadcasting and decryption devices to penetrate the basic transmission of the authorized company.

The source added that tracking cables showed the Indians used the infrastructure of the Ministry of Communications to connect the services to the buildings and the gang paid some money every month to the caretaker of the building to keep their secret.

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Robbery on rise: A total of 250 robberies in 'broad daylight' have been recorded at various police stations in Kuwait during the first eight months of 2017, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to sources some areas are fertile ground for such crimes due to the lack of security presence -- areas such as Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Taima, Khaitan and others.

The source explained most of the suspects are jobless persons and others who are already noted criminals.

Most of the crimes are committed after impersonating police targeting the homes of 'bachelors'.

In most cases, the suspects steal money and cell phones and other valuables after threatening to cause them harm.

To put an end to this phenomenon, more security measures and the development of an integrated plan are needed by the Interior Ministry in cooperation with the other competent authorities.

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Bid to counter radicals: The director of the Moderation Center at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdullah Al-Sharikah said the ministry has formed a committee to monitor those who lure others into extremism and terrorism, reports Al-Qabas daily.

He added the task of the committee is to monitor the social media to counter the extremist ideology. However, he added, no such cases of intellectual extremism or participation in the terrorist activities have been spotted so far this year.

"The committee is preparing the final report on this issue and also on those who sympathize with the terrorist ideology," Al-Sharikah said.

In the meantime, he warned against the widespread of violence particularly among female teenagers.

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'Jailed, abused': Nineteen-year-old, the Polish Instagram star a.k.a. King Luxy said he was arrested and physically abused inside Kuwaiti jail just because we wears a 'feminine' look, reports Al-Rai daily.

"Walking by restaurants area I was stopped by an undercover CID (Criminal Investigation Department) policeman who complained about the way I dressed and my 'feminine' face," Luxy told a homosexuals site.

One of the policemen called a police station and told 'someone' he was bringing in a third person to 'make a man of me, he added.

Luxy claimed he was detained for more than two weeks even though he could be held in detention for not more than four days.

He added, at the police station his head was shaved. And now he has been banned from entering Kuwait.

Luxy was also arrested upon arrival at the Hamad International Airport in Doha on June 27, 2016 and jailed for 2 months for the same reason.

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Liquor factory busted: Three Asian expatriates were arrested from a house in Al-Zour area where they were running a factory for manufacturing liquor, reports Al-Nahar daily.

According to security sources, when Ahmadi Security Directorate received information about a factory of locally manufactured liquor in Al-Zour area, a team was formed for investigations.

After verifying the tip-off and taking necessary measures, the house was raided after which securitymen arrested three Asian expatriates and confiscated huge quantity of liquor along with barrels and brewery equipment.

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Man doing drugs: A Kuwaiti citizen was arrested in Hawally area for consuming and possessing drugs, reports Al-Shahed daily.

He was driving down a road in Hawally when he attracted the attention of a patrol team, as he was in a disoriented state. When securitymen searched him, they found hashish in his possession.



The T-90 MS tank during a manoeuvre.

Kuwait-Russia deal for tanks by year-end

The contract with Kuwait for the delivery of the T-90MS/MSK tanks can be signed before the end of this year, Russian presidential aide for military and technical cooperation Vladimir Kozhin told TASS on Tuesday.

"The contract has not been signed yet, but I reckon it will materialize by the end of this year, bearing in mind the partners great interest and the active negotiating process," Kozhin said.

He added that the contract for providing T-90S tanks to Vietnam was signed last March and it is being implemented. "The dates will depend mostly on the manufacturers," he explained.

Meanwhile, the United States and Kuwaiti governments signed a Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement (CMAA) on Sept 7, taking steps to collaborate on security and trade facilitation.

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Acting Commissioner Kevin McAleenan and Director General of Kuwait General Administration of Customs Jamal Al Jalawi signed the agreement.

"We value our partnership with Kuwait in pursuing our mutual goals of stronger law enforcement and a more resilient and secure supply chain," McAleenan said in a statement. "These agreements form sound legal frameworks on a wide range of issues, including securing our borders against terrorists and combatting drug traffickers. This collaboration and cooperation will enable us — and generations after us to work more effectively to prevent, detect, and investigate customs offenses.

The United States has now signed 80 CMAAs with other customs administrations worldwide. (KUNA)

Citations issued in cafes raids

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: The Public Relations Department of Kuwait Municipality disclosed that the Emergency Team of Farwaniya Municipality conducted a three-hour inspection tour of shops and cafés in Ardiya area, reports Al-Anba daily.

The tour, which included inspection of 15 restaurants and cafés, resulted in the issuance of eight citations against erecting and installing advertisements without obtaining municipal license.

A citation was issued against a shop for not placing an identification advertisement on the front of the shop. The team also issued six citations for advertisements with expired licenses.



Municipality prepares plan to deal with encroachment

Cabinet to decide date for Municipal Council elections

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: Head of Municipal Council Muhalhel Al-Khalid says the date of the elections will be decided by the Cabinet, indicating that resorting to the temporary committee is not expected, reports Al-Rai daily.

He indicated that the decision about the elections will be issued at least one month before the legal term of the current council begins which will be Oct 20.

Al-Khalid revealed that the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and State Minister for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri addressed the Cabinet in this regard before the Eid Al-Adha holidays, adding that the current Municipal Council held its first session on Oct 21, 2013.

He explained that the minister, in his correspondence to the Cabinet, said Article No. 6 of Law No. 22/2016 concerning Kuwait Municipality stipulates that one term of the Municipal Council lasts for four years starting from the date of the first session. Therefore, the calling for the elections should be done within the 60 days preceding the last day of the four-year term. The Cabinet discussed the letter of Al-Jabri in its last session and will take a final decision in this regard in the coming session after a second discussion.

Meanwhile, a source from Kuwait Municipality said the Director General of Kuwait Municipality Eng Ahmed Al-Manfouhi gave direct instructions to his deputies and to the directors of all municipality branches to identify the areas that are part of state properties and revise the issued licenses and the size of the occupied area for each license.

He explained that Kuwait Municipality has prepared a plan to deal with the illegal occupation of state properties. This plan covers all six governorates, starting with Capital Governorate. Campaigns will be launched with the cooperation of Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Public Authority for Industry. The plan includes giving violators a grace period for rectifying their violations.

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Assistant Undersecretary for Construction Projects Sector at the Ministry of Public Works Eng Ghalib Safouq visited the site for the Expropriation and BOT System Department in South Surra, during which he announced that the completion rate of the project reached 50 percent, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a press statement, Safouq disclosed the concrete works will be completed while ceiling work on the eighth floor is ongoing and preparations for the ninth floor are being done. He said the electrical connections on the third floor will be completed soon, whereas the brick works on the fourth and fifth floors as well as the sewage works are in progress.

3,608 cases of citizens faking disability uncovered in review

Culprits illegally benefited from KD 15m in privileges

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: The automated review of the disabilty files from October 2016 until August 2017 uncovered 3,608 cases of citizens faking disability to benefit illegally from an estimated KD 15 million in privileges the government provides for people with special need per year, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting reliable sources.

The same sources added the concerned medical committee changed the description of 680 files from severe disability to zero disability after the automated evaluation exposed beneficiaries who claimed severe disability to receive an estimated KD 6 million. It also discovered 1,253 files claiming medium disability to receive KD 4.9 million, in addition to 1,675 files with slight disabilities that received KD 3.7 million.

Sources stated roughly KD 59 million was paid illegally in the form of allowances to women having disabled people in their custody, as well as driver and servant allowances. They noted KD 23.8 million of the sum was paid in monthly allowances to 8,961 beneficiaries, KD 9 million to 2,916 women custodians of disabled people and KD 25.7 million to 17,352 beneficiaries in driver and servant allowances.

Meanwhile, the committee dismissed 5,139 applications filed by 3,494 persons who presented more than one application claiming dual disability. They also cancelled 7,081 files whose holders are either dead or recovered, and detected 7,000 files with expired medical certificates not renewed for one or two years.

It is worthy of note that Public Authority for Disabled Affairs granted six months grace period for the renewal of expired medical certificates, and all files that were not renewed during the period have since been closed.

Meanwhile, Cairo University has started preparations for opening its branch in Kuwait, following in the footsteps of Alexandria University, reports Al-Shahed daily quoting resources.

Sources said Cairo University intends to submit a request to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, through the Private Universities Council, to open its branch in Ahmadi Governorate. Sources disclosed the branch will offer various fields of specialization, including the faculties of Medicine and Dentistry.

Sources added the Arab Contractors Company will execute the project once the request is approved, affirming the university's fees will be low as its objective is to focus on its educational mission rather than financial gains. Sources went on to say the university will hire Egyptian teachers.

Furthermore, the Kuwaiti National Industries Group Holding has investments worth $2.5 billion in Jordan, said the chairman on Tuesday.

Jordanian Premiership, in a statement, quoted Al-Saad as saying that the group has plans to expand the businesses in the kingdom.

The statement quoted Jordanian Prime Minister Dr Hani Al-Mulki, who hosted a delegation of the group headed by Al-Saad, as pledging to provide it with all necessary facilities to grow its investments in the country.

The Kuwaiti group, established in 1961, seeks to expand its projects in various sectors in the country.



KUNA photo

Kuwait Red Crescent Society and IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation distribute relief aid to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

4,000 food parcels distributed to 16,000 refugees

KRCS, IHH coordinating in helping Rohingyas

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13, (KUNA): Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation are working together to deliver relief aid and assistance to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, said a statement Wednesday.

KRCS Chairman of the Board Dr Hilal Al-Sayer told KUNA that the society was keen on collaborating with other international partners to help the Rohingya Muslims.

In the upcoming days, the KRCS and associates will launch a campaign in support of the Rohingyas escaping persecution from the Buddhist majority in Myanmar.

In the previous weeks, some 300,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Rakhine State in Myanmar to neighboring Bangladesh, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Mercy International, part of the Association for Social Reform, launched a campaign to distribute around 4,000 food parcels to some 16,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, said an official Wednesday.

Mercy International's Indian subcontinent bureau Chief Mohammad Al-Qassar told KUNA via phone that aiding Myanmar's Rohingya minority was a humanitarian duty which Kuwait would gladly participate in.

He indicated that the Rohingyas, who are escaping persecution in Myanmar, are in desperate need for aid considering their current dire situation.

As a nation eager for truth and justice, Kuwait will stand by the Rohingyas "who are abused and massacred by the Buddhist majority in their country," said Al-Qassar who called on all components of Kuwaiti society to aid their fellow Muslims in Myanmar.

He urged people to donate to the campaign through Mercy International headquarters all over Kuwait or through the committee's website.

In the previous weeks, some 300,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Rakhine State in Myanmar to neighboring Bangladesh, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Close the

Continued from Page 1

ruling the Gulf and threatening specific countries.

Everyone remembers how they considered Kuwait as the first country from which they intend to launch their pursuit to rule the remaining Gulf states.

Within a year, Egypt resisted the rule of the 'Brotherhood' as the first concern of their leaders was to take over the economic domains and impose their partnership on owners of businesses; in addition to twisting laws in their favor, notwithstanding the fact that their media mouthpieces in the Gulf typically start drumming for civil war if governments fail to respond to their demands.

In Kuwait, we have a bitter experience with this group through the way the 'Brotherhood' led demonstrations, assaulted security officers, destroyed public properties and strived towards destabilizing the country.

The best testimony is the scores of tweets posted by politicians and journalists from Qatar during the 'Brotherhood' destruction campaign in 2012. At the time, they compared what was transpiring in Kuwait with the incidents in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Syria.

They described such events and made threats as they said: "The stubbornness of rulers and standing against the will of the people led to chaos and demonstrations."

However, the wisdom of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah saved the country at the time through a series of crucial decisions.

Today, the political and media circles of 'Brotherhood' terrorism expanded through a comprehensive system from the information media and social communication websites, whether in Qatar or Turkey and other countries which rotate on the global orbit of the group.

The scattered affiliates of this group practice public provocation against some Gulf countries, while camouflaging under the texture which suits each society where they breed. Sometimes, they hide behind liberal factions and parties, and at other times, behind what is known as the organization of moderation and uprightness. Throughout such efforts; they brandish DAESH, al-Qaeda or other organizations as the tool of change.

These new frontiers conspired with governments of other countries. We witnessed how the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stood up by force with determination on two occasions to counter the danger they pose. For a long period, the Kingdom has been working hard to fight against them.

In fact, the leaders of the Kingdom were the first to warn about the danger posed by the 'Brotherhood,' but unfortunately, the Kingdom's effort was met with paving way for members of this group in other countries to infiltrate and control establishments. In one way or another, this formed a lung through which the group breathes in the remaining countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Today, at this critical period, there is no place for slackness in terms of acknowledging the reality of this group that is involved in prescribed terrorism. Therefore, failure to put it on the list of terrorist groups like Hezbollah, DAESH, al-Qaeda and Houthis is tantamount to encouraging terrorism.

Hence, it is irrational to urge Qatar to consider the 'Muslim Brotherhood Group as a terrorist organization; while there are other Gulf countries granting their members quota of leadership positions. In addition, they have representatives in the parliament and the cabinet.

The infinite

Continued from Page 1

hospital or even a court session or an urgent matter that needs immediate attention, etc.

The reason behind this lagging procedure is that the law, government and insurance companies do not trust citizens or residents. Everyone assumes that insured drivers will agree among themselves to defraud their insurance companies by lying about how the accident occurred and who committed the mistake.

This can happen through fabrication of the entire accident, even if the accident did not occur, in the sense that two or more people decide to close the road with their dented cars. Once the traffic police or expert arrives at the scene, they tell him a cooked up story which the expert jots down and then the involved parties will sign the report.

Once the traffic report is signed, the insurance company will act according to details of the report without any discussion, so every necessary detail is presented appropriately ... and that is it.

I call upon our brothers in backwardness. Why not take the experiences of advanced countries in dealing with such issues? I mean, why not take the experience of advanced countries — the core of which is trust in their citizens and expatriates?

Once when I was in France, I was driving from the city of Aix-en-Provence heading to a resort or a town located in French Riviera. During that trip, I was with my friends and it was autumn, given that I do not visit such places in summer.

While we were waiting in traffic near one of the entrances to the glamorous city; a long vehicle recklessly went past by our car, hitting the side and crushing the backdoor.

The long vehicle stopped on the road side, not at the scene of accident. By then, pedestrians have already gathered around and several of them told me that they witnessed the accident, saying it was the mistake of the truck driver.

The pedestrians gave me their phone numbers which they wrote on a white paper in case their testimony is needed. On the other hand, the truck driver came to the car I was driving and asked me to get on his truck where he acknowledged his mistake.

The driver reached for his truck's glove box, pulled out a form called 'constat amiable d'accident automobile' — an accident report form stating facts about the accident as agreed by those involved in the accident. All of us signed the form where we also put our personal information, and after that, we went our separate ways.

I took the car back to Nice Airport where I rented the car. The persons in charge at the car rental office saw the huge dent on the backdoor, and to my surprise, they were not shocked at all.

Instead, they requested for the accident report. After that, they simply asked me to choose an alternative car and that was the end of the story.

We dedicate this story to those who are fond of backwardness, frustration and delay in our well-guided government which is represented by the Ministry of Interior and its worn-out Traffic Department.

MP calls

Continued from Page 1

approved by the Environment Public Authority (EPA).

He revealed the committee received a comprehensive report from EPA, detailing the procedures taken in addressing the above mentioned issues. He added the committee will meet again after two weeks to look into the results of these procedures.

He affirmed no new fish kill incident has been reported so far, thanking EPA for taking into consideration the recommendations of the Parliament in this regard. He was quick to add though that there is still more to be done; hence, the need for intensified efforts and stronger coordination between the concerned institutions to resolve these issues.

On the allegation that oil spots from a neighboring country reached Kuwait's territorial waters; he said, "We looked into the measures taken by EPA. I do not want to preempt things nor hold accountable anyone until the results of monitoring and analyses carried out by the authority."

He also urged EPA to increase the number of environmental police in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, adding the Attorney General must develop the environment prosecution mechanism to expedite issuance of decisions on environmental issues. He said, "We have to exert more efforts and coordinate with all relevant bodies to stop improper dumping of waste."

He added the committee also looked into the complaints of fishing enthusiasts about the law governing their hobby and the suggestion to amend the executive regulations.

Syria in

Continued from Page 1

has been ongoing since yesterday as the army seeks to expel the jihadists and reach the western bank of the Euphrates."

If the army captures Al-Jafra, "Deir Ezzor will be encircled from three sides, so DAESH will have no way out except the Euphrates which is within firing range of regime artillery and Russian warplanes," he added.

As the Syrian army backed by Russian air support battles IS in Deir Ezzor, a separate offensive by the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces is under way on the eastern side of the province.

The operation by the alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters began over the weekend, but the SDF has said it was not coordinating the fight with the regime.

Air strikes by Russian and US-led coalition warplanes in support of the separate offensives have killed dozens of civilians in recent days.

On Wednesday, the Observatory said suspected US-led coalition strikes on several parts of eastern Deir Ezzor province overnight and throughout the day killed 12 people.

On Tuesday, the monitor reported 35 people killed in Russian and US-led strikes on either side of the Euphrates.

More than 330,000 people have been killed in Syria since the conflict began in March 2011 with anti-government protests.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad welcomed Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu to Damascus on Tuesday as Syrian forces supported by the Russian army prepare to make a final push into parts of the eastern city of Deir Ezzor.

Shoigu gave a letter from Russian President Vladimir Putin to Assad "congratulating him on lifting the siege imposed by Islamic State terrorists in the city of Deir Ezzor," according to a statement by the Syrian presidency.

An unwavering ally of Assad's regime, Russia militarily intervened in the Syria's six-year conflict in September 2015 when the government was in trouble in its fight against rebels and jihadist groups.

The Damascus regime has had many victories since and now controls nearly all Syria's main cities.

The loss of Deir Ezzor would be a major blow to the jihadist group, whose territory in Syria and neighbouring Iraq has been shrinking.

Shoigu and Assad, who last met in June 2016 in Damascus, discussed their "military and tactical cooperation ... for the destruction of the Islamic State group in Syria," a statement from the Russian defence ministry said.

Gulf row

Continued from Page 1

radical Islamist groups.

"The severity of the diplomatic dispute between Gulf countries is unprecedented, which magnifies the uncertainty over the ultimate economic, fiscal and social impact on the GCC as a whole," said Steffen Dyck, Moody's vice-president.

Qatar faces large economic, financial and social costs stemming from related travel and trade restrictions, it said.

The impact on Qatar so far has been most acute for trade, tourism and the banking sector.

Sizeable capital outflows in the vicinity of $30 billion flowed out of Qatar's banking system in June and July, with further declines expected as GCC banks opt not to roll over their deposits, Moody's said.

It estimates that Qatar used $38.5 billion — equivalent to 23 percent of its GDP — to support the economy in the first two months of sanctions.

Moody's said it does not expect that Qatar will have to borrow from the international capital market this year, but its financing costs will increase.

The standoff could also impair the sustainability of Bahrain's currency peg to the US dollar and will also increase the cost of borrowing for the kingdom, the poorest of the six oil-rich GCC nations.

The diplomatic rift will inevitably impair the functioning of the GCC more severely as the row prolongs.

Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani will visit Turkey on Thursday to meet President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in his first visit abroad since the start of a diplomatic crisis with Saudi Arabia, Ankara said.

Al-Thani will hold talks on "bilateral ties and regional as well as international developments," the Turkish presidency said.

Erdogan has been a major supporter of Doha since Qatar was left diplomatically and economically isolated by the standoff instigated by its giant neighbour.

Erdogan has strongly spoken out against the sanctions applied by Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt against Doha.

In a show of solidarity, Turkey has also sent cargo ships and hundreds of planes loaded with food products to break the embargo on Doha.

After visiting Turkey, the Amir is due to visit Berlin for talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, his first trip to a western capital since the crisis began.

Jail call

Continued from Page 1

On Wall Street on Tuesday, Equifax closed 2.5 percent higher at $115.96, slightly reversing a 21 percent slide since the hack was reported.

In an opinion piece in USA Today, Equifax Chief Executive Officer Richard Smith apologized for the breach and vowed the company "will make changes."

He said more than 15 million people have visited the firm's support website and 11.5 million are enrolling in credit monitoring and identity theft protection.

The company at first thought the intrusion was limited, Smith said. Equifax hired a cybersecurity firm and spent "thousands of hours" investigating before informing the public six weeks after the breach was discovered, he said.

"We are devoting extraordinary resources to make sure this kind of incident doesn't happen again," Smith said.

Smith did not address the stock sale issue.

In their letter, the lawmakers, led by Jack Reed, a Democrat, and John Kennedy, a Republican, requested "a thorough examination of any unusual trading, including any atypical options trading, for violations of insider trading law."

Newswatch

Continued from Page 1

Paul said Tuesday that Congress is supposed to make it difficult for the executive branch to go to war. But Congress has "lost (its) way" and effectively allowed the president to unilaterally commit the nation to war. (AP)

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CAIRO: **Egypt**'s military said two soldiers and six jihadists were killed in a "foiled" suicide bombing in **Sinai** on Wednesday, days after the Islamic State group staged a large scale attack in the peninsula.

The bomber had taken advantage of a fog to creep up on an army "installation" when troops spotted and killed him, the military said in a statement.

It said five other jihadists were killed in ensuing clashes, which followed a police convoy bombing in Sinai on Monday claimed by IS that killed 18 people. (AFP)

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GENEVA: Diplomats and rights advocates gathered at the UN Wednesday to launch a new push for an international investigation into rights violations in war-ravaged **Yemen**, after two previous attempts failed amid Saudi pressure.

The Netherlands and **Canada** are spearheading the new bid to push a resolution through the UN Human Rights Council this month on creating an International Commission of Inquiry — the UN's highest-level probe — to investigate abuses in Yemen. (AFP)

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ROCKFORD, Wash.: A shooter opened fire at a high school in Washington state Wednesday, killing one person and injuring at least three others, authorities said.

Brian Schaeffer of the Spokane Fire Department told reporters that one person died at Freeman High School in Rockford, south of **Spokane**, and three injured victims were taken to a hospital.

Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center and Children's Hospital received three pediatric patients, spokeswoman **Nicole Stewart** said. They were in stable condition, and family members were with them, she said. (AP

World News Roundup

HealthCare

Sanders, GOP roll out bills

‘Medicare for all’ bill lacks details on cost

WASHINGTON, Sept 13, (Agencies): Americans would get health coverage simply by showing a new government-issued card and would no longer owe out-of-pocket expenses like deductibles, according to legislation Sen **Bernie Sanders** released Wednesday.

But the Vermont independent’s description of the legislation omitted specifics about how much it would cost and final decisions about how he would pay for it.

Sanders was releasing his bill on the same day Republican senators were rolling out details of a last-ditch effort to repeal and replace president Barack Obama’s healthcare law.

In an interview, Sanders said Tuesday that his measure would likely be paid for in a “progressive way.” Aides said it would likely be financed by income-adjusted premiums people would pay the government, ranging from no premiums for the poorest Americans to high levies on the rich and corporations.


Sanders

The measure has no chance of becoming law with President Donald Trump in the White House and Republicans controlling Congress. But it embodies a push to universal coverage that eluded Obama’s 2010 law and is a tenet of the Democratic Party’s liberal, activist base.

“I think in a democracy, we should be doing what the American people want,” Sanders said, citing polls showing growing support for the concept.

His bill would expand Medicare, the health insurance program for the elderly, to cover all Americans. It would be phased in over four years, and people and businesses would no longer owe premiums to insurers.

Expensive

The progressive wing of the Democratic Party backs the bill, which would make healthcare less expensive and less complicated for many people and businesses. It would cover the 28 million Americans remaining uninsured despite Obama’s law.

But some Democrats fear Sanders is exposing them to a lose-lose choice.

Don’t support Sanders’ plan and Democrats risk alienating the party’s liberal, activist voters, volunteers and contributors. Back it and they’ll be accused by Republicans of backing a huge tax increase and government-run healthcare, and taking away employer-provided coverage for half the country that many people like.

At least 12 other Senate Democrats signed onto Sanders’ bill by late Tuesday, including four potential 2020 presidential contenders besides Sanders: Kamala Harris of California, Massachusetts’ Elizabeth Warren, New York’s Kirsten Gillibrand and Cory Booker of New Jersey.

To cover themselves, several Democrats are introducing their own bills that expand coverage without going as far as Sanders, including possible presidential aspirants Sens. Chris Murphy of Connecticut and Ohio’s Sherrod Brown. Several Democrats facing tough re-elections next year in GOP-leaning states say they want to focus on strengthening Obama’s existing law, including Montana’s Jon Tester and Missouri’s Claire McCaskill.

“We welcome the Democrats’ strategy of moving even further left,” said Katie Martin, spokeswoman for the Senate GOP’s campaign organization.

Seven weeks after the GOP drive to uproot Obama’s 2010 healthcare law crashed in the Senate, two Republican senators, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Louisiana’s Bill Cassidy, were releasing their plan for trying again.

They’ve struggled for weeks to round up sufficient support for the package. It would cut and reshape Medicaid, disperse money spent under Obama’s law directly to states and erase Obama’s penalties on people who don’t purchase coverage.

No. 3 Senate GOP leader John Thune of South Dakota said Graham and Cassidy would need “a double-double bank shot” to prevail, a joking reference to an impossible basketball shot.

Effort

Like the failed Senate GOP repeal effort in July, the Graham-Cassidy push will get zero Democratic support. That means Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., will need 50 of the 52 Republican senators, a margin he couldn’t reach in July and is struggling to reach now.

Despite badgering by Trump that he keep trying, McConnell has expressed no interest in staging yet another vote that produces an embarrassing rejection by the GOP-controlled Senate. Conservatives are wary because the bill falls short in erasing Obama’s wide-ranging coverage requirements.

“I don’t think this bill will go anywhere,” said Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky.

A third effort, a bipartisan attempt to shore up individual insurance markets around the country, is showing early signs that the sides are having problems reaching agreement.

Sens. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and Patty Murray, D-Wash., hope to reach a deal on continuing for at least a year the federal payments to insurers that Trump has threatened to halt. Republicans are also insisting on easing the Obama law’s coverage requirements, which Democrats don’t want to do.

Alexander said Tuesday that Republicans want “real state flexibility” to let insurers offer “a larger variety of benefits and payment rules.”

Murray said she worried the GOP wants to “wind up increasing out-of-pocket costs for patients and families.” That’s something Democrats oppose.

McConnell said the Alexander-Murray talks “are underway and we’ll see where they go.”

The U.S. Congress was wrestling with healthcare again on Tuesday, as lawmakers from both parties considered some approaches beyond simply repealing and replacing Obamacare.

The widened healthcare discussion appeared unlikely to yield dramatic changes soon, but marked a shift from the long-running, Republican effort to gut 2010’s Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as Obamacare is formally known.

In one Senate committee, a bipartisan effort was under way on Tuesday to repair Obamacare without repealing it, led by the Republican health committee chairman, Lamar Alexander, and the panel’s top Democrat, Patty Murray.

They want to stabilize the Obamacare individual insurance market by protecting its “cost-sharing subsidies.”


Damaged homes near Marathon, Florida on Sept 12, after Hurricane Irma. Florida is cleaning up and embarking on rebuilding from Hurricane Irma, one of the most destructive hurricanes in its history. (AP)

Evacuees begin long road back to Florida Keys after Irma’s devastation

Evacuees from Hurricane Irma returned early Wednesday to parts of the Florida Keys, which remained largely without electricity and communications in the wake of the deadly storm.

Categorized as one of the most powerful Atlantic storms on record when it rampaged through the Caribbean, Irma killed more than 60 people, officials said.

At least 18 people died in Florida and nearby states, and destruction was widespread in the Keys, where Irma made initial US landfall on Sunday and became the second major hurricane to strike the mainland this season.

Authorities barred re-entry to most of the Keys to allow more time to restore electricity and medical service and bring water, food and fuel.

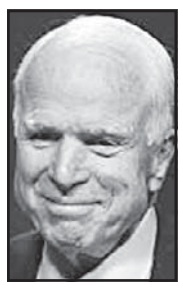
Irma has also claimed five more lives, patients at a Florida nursing home that lost electricity during the storm that brought widespread flooding and power outages over the weekend, authorities said on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump will travel to storm-battered Florida on Thursday to survey damage caused by Hurricane Irma, the White House said.

The White House has been keen to show that Trump is on top of coordinating the federal response to hurricanes Irma and Harvey — which earlier this month flooded Houston, Texas. (Agencies)


This file photo taken on Feb 6, 2017 shows White House Director of Strategic Communications Hope Hicks arriving at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. Hicks has been named White House communication’s director, formally taking on one of the most powerful roles in Washington. Hicks — who had been acting director since the spectacular departure of Anthony Scaramucci — confirmed her appointment via email on Sept 12. (AFP)


Carter


McCain

America

Move fast on taxes — Trump: President Donald Trump is pushing lawmakers to “move fast” on a tax overhaul.

On Twitter Wednesday, Trump says: “The approval process for the biggest Tax Cut & Tax Reform package in the history of our country will soon begin. Move fast Congress!”

Trump had dinner Tuesday with a group of Republican and Democratic senators to talk taxes. The push to overhaul the tax code is a top priority for Trump and Republicans after their effort on health care failed.

Trump has been pushing for changes to the tax code to cut corporate and individual rates and simplify the system, but has offered few specifics.

White House legislative director Marc Short said Tuesday that principles for the tax overhaul will be released “in a matter of days, not weeks.” (AP)

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US more like oligarchy — Carter: Former president **Jimmy Carter** says the US functions more like an “oligarchy than a democracy,” and he is sharply critical of US foreign policy under President Donald Trump.

The former president says Trump should talk openly with North Korea about a peace treaty, rather than deal in threats.

Carter also says he has no hope Trump can broker peace between Israel and Palestinians. Trump has backed off the long-held US position advocating a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine.

Carter made his remarks Tuesday to several hundred supporters of his post-presidency Carter Center in Atlanta.

The former president’s unsolicited advice to Trump is “keep the peace, promote human rights and tell the truth.” (AP)

Immigration

US won’t issue some visas in 4 nations

SC allows ban on most refugees

WASHINGTON, Sept 13, (Agencies): The Supreme Court is allowing the Trump administration to maintain its restrictive policy on refugees.

The justices on Tuesday agreed to an administration request to block a lower court ruling that would have eased the refugee ban and allowed up to 24,000 refugees to enter the country before the end of October.

The order was not the court’s last word on the travel policy that President Donald Trump first rolled out in January. The justices are scheduled to hear arguments on Oct. 10 on the legality of the bans on travelers from six mostly Muslim countries and refugees anywhere in the world.

It’s unclear, though, what will be left for the court to decide. The 90-day travel ban lapses in late September and the 120-day refugee ban will expire a month later.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Tuesday night: “We are pleased that the Supreme Court has allowed key components of the order to remain in effect. We will continue to vigorously defend the order leading up to next month’s oral argument in the Supreme Court.”

The administration has yet to say whether it will seek to renew the bans, make them permanent or expand the travel ban to other countries.

Lower courts have ruled that the bans violate the Constitution and federal immigration law. The high court has agreed to review those rulings. Its intervention so far has been to evaluate what parts of the policy can take effect in the meantime.

The justices said in June that the administration could not enforce the bans against people who have a “bona fide” relationship with people or entities in the United States. The justices declined to define the required relationships more precisely.

A panel of the San Francisco-based 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a district judge’s order that would have allowed refugees to enter the United States if a resettlement agency in the US had agreed to take them in.

Border

Meanwhile, Trump will not necessarily insist on including funding for a border wall with Mexico in legislation to address protections for children brought to the United States illegally, a senior aide said on Tuesday.

White House legislative director Marc Short, speaking to reporters at a Christian Science Monitor breakfast, said the administration will lay out its priorities for a fix for the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in the next couple of weeks.

While Trump remains committed to his campaign promise to build the wall along the US border with Mexico, “whether or not that is specifically part of a DACA package or a different legislative package, I am not going to prejudge here today,” Short said.

In related news, the top House Democrat and a senior White House official both indicated Tuesday they are open to compromise on border security to expedite legislation to help immigrants brought here illegally as children.

White House legislative director Marc Short said at a Christian Science Monitor breakfast that despite Trump’s advocacy for a southern border wall, “I don’t want us to bind ourselves into a construct that makes reaching a conclusion on DACA impossible.”

Meanwhile, the US State Department on Wednesday will stop issuing certain kinds of visas to some citizens of Cambodia, Eritrea, Guinea and Sierra Leone because the nations are not taking back their citizens the United States wants to deport.

The new policies, laid out in State Department cables sent on Tuesday and reviewed by Reuters, are the latest example of Trump’s effort to crack down on immigrants who are in the United States illegally.

The cables, sent by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to consular officials around the world, said the four countries were “denying or unreasonably delaying” the return of their citizens from the United States, and that visa restrictions would be lifted in a country if it accepted its deportees.

The State Department declined comment on the cables, saying it would not discuss internal communications.

(AP)

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McCain keeps working: Sen **John McCain** will continue with radiation and chemotherapy treatments for brain cancer, while maintaining a regular work schedule in the Senate — following his MRI on Monday.

The Arizona Republican’s office says he had the MRI at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, where he is receiving treatments.

The 81-year-old senator disclosed his diagnosis in July, and returned home for treatment after casting the decisive vote to kill Republican legislation to repeal and replace the Obama health law.

McCain returned to the Senate following the August recess — and is managing major legislation on the Senate floor, the annual defense bill.

In a weekend CNN interview, McCain said he’s confident about beating the challenge but also said, “Every life has to end one way or another.” (AP)


New US citizens stand and take an oath at a naturalization ceremony at Alexandria City Hall in Alexandria, Virginia on Sept 12. Each year, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) welcomes approximately 680,000 citizens during naturalization ceremonies across the United States and around the world. (AFP)

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American terror trial starts: A US citizen whose terrorism trial started Tuesday, a day after the 16th anniversary of the Sept 11 attacks, is both a dangerous al-Qaeda operative and someone who has a right to a fair trial in his native country, a federal prosecutor said during opening statements.

Muhanad Mahmoud Al Farekh, who was born in Houston, raised in Dubai and went to college in Canada before ending up in Pakistan, is “an American citizen who turned his back on this country, joined terrorists and lived with them for seven years before he was caught,” Assistant US Attorney Saritha Komatireddy said in federal court in Brooklyn.

She also called the defendant “an American who sought to kill other Americans” while working for an arm of the terror network that planned attacks on the West.

In his opening, defense attorney David Ruhnke urged jurors to set aside their feelings about the Sept 11 anniversary, calling his client a “real human being” who deserves a fair and impartial jury. (AP)

World News Roundup

Brexit

N. Ireland fears loss

'Seize Brexit chance to forge tighter EU'

STRASBOURG, Sept 13, (RTRS): European Commission chief **Jean-Claude Juncker** called on EU governments on Wednesday to seize a window of opportunity from Brexit and economic growth to forge a tighter union built around the euro currency and a pivotal role in global trade.

In his annual State of the European Union speech, Juncker sketched out a vision of a post-2019 EU where some 30 countries would form a euro zone, with an EU finance minister running key budgets to help states in trouble.



Juncker

Tax and welfare standards would converge and Europe, rather than the United States, would be the hub of a free-trading world.

The Commission president — effectively the EU's chief executive - stressed his wish to heal divisions between eastern and western, poorer and richer member states; he sees that as vital to countering a drive, including by founding powers France and Germany, to set up new structures within the bloc that would exclude some ex-communist members.

"The wind is back in Europe's sails," Junker told the European Parliament, citing faster economic growth and the easing of a succession of crises -- Greek debts, refugee crowds, Britain's exit -- that seemed to threaten the EU's survival.

"Now we have a window of opportunity, but it will not stay open for ever," he said, emphasising a need to move on from and even profit from the British vote to leave the bloc come 2019.

"We will keep moving on because Brexit isn't everything, it is not the future of Europe," he said in a speech that Brexit supporters said showed they were right to take Britain out of a bloc set on creating more powerful, central institutions.

In a carefully balanced, hour-long discourse in Strasbourg, he called on nationalist eastern leaders -- though not by name -- to stop defying EU courts over civil rights, and on westerners to drop attempts to keep out cheaper eastern workers or palm off inferior food products in poorer national markets.

But his core proposal for countering what is known as a "multispeed Europe" by encouraging all states to join the euro and other EU structures faces resistance in both non-euro zone countries and potentially in Paris and Berlin, where the newly elected President Emmanuel Macron and about to be re-elected German Chancellor Angela Merkel are readying their own plans.

Group

"If we want the euro to unite rather than divide our continent, then it should be more than the currency of a select group of countries," Juncker said. "The euro is meant to be the single currency of the European Union as a whole."

Meanwhile, the British government needs to provide more clarity and less ambiguity on Brexit for negotiations to succeed, French junior economy minister Benjamin Griveaux said during a visit to London on Wednesday.

Asked what impact a "no-deal Brexit" scenario would have on France, Griveaux told reporters that it would be felt by the whole of Europe, but would be even worse for Britain.

"If it goes wrong, it will go wrong for everyone," he said.

Griveaux, who helped President Emmanuel Macron set up the En Marche political movement that propelled him to power in May, is part of the 39-year old leader's inner circle.

He was in London to meet company executives, predominantly in the financial services industry, with a view to persuading them to move some of their operations to France after Brexit.

In related news, the European Union has long aided efforts to heal the deep divisions that plague Northern Ireland, and many people on both sides of the sectarian rift fear what might happen when Brexit forces it to walk away.

Since a 1998 peace deal ended three decades of violence between Protestant pro-British unionists and Catholic Irish nationalists, in which 3,600 died, the EU has pumped about 1.5 billion euros ($1.8 billion) into projects to shore up that peace - more than any other body apart from the British state.

Neutral

It has enjoyed broad support and influence as a force viewed by both sides as a neutral broker separate from the British government, which is distrusted by many nationalists, and the Irish government, distrusted by many unionists.

It has been able to take on projects others shy away from, such as the reintegration of former militants, both IRA and pro-union loyalists, and support for relatives of dead fighters.

Brexit is already rattling the region by raising concerns it will lead to a hard border with EU member Ireland. For some in both communities, the idea of a new, rigid frontier stirs painful memories of the British Army watchtowers and checkpoints that peppered the border during the decades of bloodshed.

"It's a very fragile situation here, and in Westminster there seems to be a lack of consideration for Northern Ireland," said Kate Clifford, director of the Rural Community Network, a community group that has received peace funding in the past.

"Without a (EU) peace programme behind that, without the impetus of the external force that is Europe, that honest broker, things will become very difficult," she said.

While no one expects a return to the widespread violence of Northern Ireland's "Troubles" of the 1960s to 1990s, sectarian tensions still run high and intermittingly erupt into rioting.

Some British ministers argue that savings from leaving the bloc would allow the government to match all EU funding and last month British Prime Minister Theresa May said that her government would consider replacing that European money.

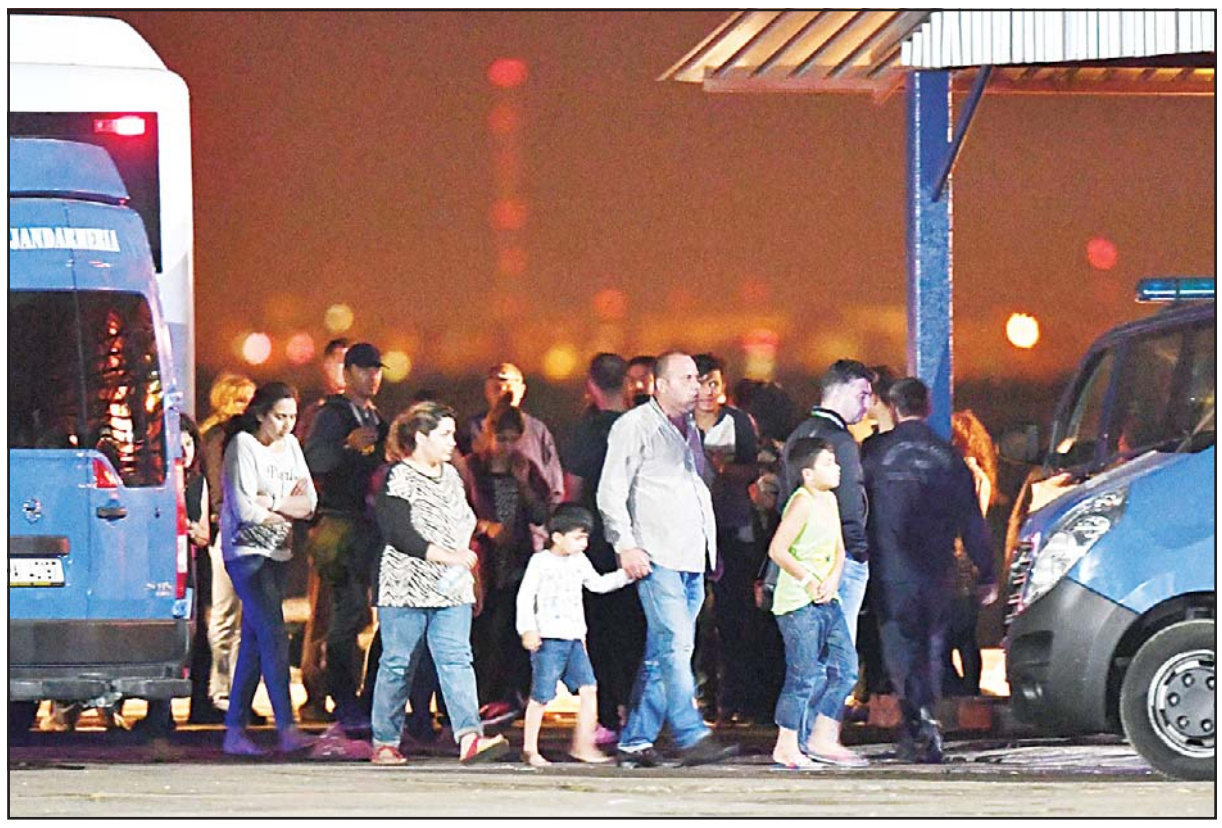
Yet London has offered no guarantees and, with Brexit negotiations between London and Brussels in their infancy, there is little certainty about how leaving the bloc will affect Britain's finances.

The British government's Northern Ireland office and the EU's Belfast office declined to comment.

Since the EU's Northern Ireland PEACE programme was founded in 1995, funded groups have worked with hundreds of thousands of Northern Ireland's 1.8 million citizens on conflict resolution, anti-sectarianism and supporting victims.



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker delivers his State of the Union speech at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France, on Sept 13. (AFP)



Migrants prepare to board buses at a refugee centre in the Midia Port, at the Black Sea coast, next to Navodari city on Sept 13. EU member Romania is not part of the bloc's passport-free Schengen zone and until now has largely avoided the kind of influx of refugees and migrants seen elsewhere on the continent over the last few years. Bucharest fears that the Black Sea could become an alternative route for migrants seeking a new life in Europe as the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean becomes increasingly difficult. (AFP)



Former British prime minister Tony Blair smiles as he arrives to greet Pope Francis during the weekly general audience at St Peter's Square on Sept 13, in Vatican. (AFP)

Europe

'Restore power-sharing govt': British Prime Minister **Theresa May** has spoken with the leaders of Northern Ireland's two main parties to press them to restore a power-sharing government that collapsed in January.

Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and its nationalist rivals Sinn Fein have failed so far to agree on how to reform the devolved administration, limiting the province's influence in Brexit negotiations.

A government spokeswoman said on Wednesday that May had made separate phone calls to DUP leader Arlene Foster and the leader of Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland, **Michelle O'Neill,** to make clear "the importance of restoring a power-sharing executive to Northern Ireland as soon as possible".

"They discussed key outstanding issues that remain for both parties and the prime minister encouraged both leaders to come to an agreement soon in the interests of everyone in Northern Ireland." (RTRS)

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'Reject EU withdrawal bill': Scotland's devolved government has recommended that its parliament at Holyrood withhold consent for legislation to withdraw Britain from the European Union, on the grounds that it could water down their powers, a document filed by the Scottish government said on Tuesday.

The approval of the devolved parliaments in Scotland and Wales does not represent a veto to the Brexit process, although it would stretch Britain's constitutional tensions yet further by forcing the UK government of Prime Minister Theresa May to ignore the expressed wish of the devolved bodies.

Scotland would work with the Welsh government to propose amendments to the bill which, if agreement were reached, would allow it to recommend its passage in the devolved assemblies, the document said.



May



O'Neill

The bill will end the supremacy of EU law in the UK and convert all existing EU laws into domestic ones.

"Along with the Welsh government, the Scottish government cannot recommend to the parliament that it gives consent to the bill as currently drafted," the document filed with the Scottish parliament said.

"The Scottish government is also clear that the result of withdrawal from the EU should not be centralisation of power in Whitehall and Westminster. However, that is what the bill proposes." (RTRS)

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Migrants

Romania rescues 157 from Black Sea

Take in refugees: EU

BRUSSELS, Sept 13, (Agencies): Eastern European Union states must drop their resistance and accept their share of refugees who arrived in the bloc, officials and diplomats said on Tuesday after a court ruled they must abide by the quota.

The EU's highest court ruled last week that member states must take in a share of refugees who reach Europe, dismissing complaints by Slovakia and Hungary and reigniting an east-west row that has shaken the bloc's cohesion.

Brussels and other capitals hope member states will respect the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling.

Poland and Hungary are opposed to accepting anybody, their reluctance shared by ex-communist peers Slovakia and the Czech Republic, who have, however, accepted a handful of people under a 2015 EU scheme designed to move 160,000 from Italy and Greece.

"All members of the EU must respect the ruling," Manfred Weber, the head of the of the largest faction in the European Parliament, told a news conference. "The legal fight is over."

"Migration is still a political wound of the political landscape all over Europe ... All the reasonable and all the responsible politicians have to go now (towards) a compromise."

EU officials and diplomats say they will make another push this autumn to try to bridge the divisions. EU interior ministers will debate the matter in Brussels on Wednesday.

However, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has said he will fight on. Poland, whose nationalist government is now engulfed in spiralling feuds with the bloc, said its migration stance has not changed.

The head of the United Nations refugee agency praised the European Union's refugee quota system for member states on Tuesday and urged Hungary to drop its resistance to taking in its fair share of migrants.

"My impression is there is a very clear intention to limit the number of people coming to Hungary to seek protection," UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said during a visit to Budapest.

Grandi said the EU's quota system, introduced at the height of the migrant crisis in Europe in 2015, provided a model for other countries worldwide.

Meanwhile, Romania's coast guard has rescued more than 150 migrants from Iraq and Iran, including 56 children, from a ship in distress on the Black Sea, on what is becoming a favored route for migrants trying to reach Western Europe.

The rusty ship was towed to the Black Sea port of Constanta, some 250 kilometers (150 miles) east of Bucharest, before dawn Wednesday.

Revising its initial count, the coast guard said it found more 157 migrants from Iran and Iraq who had "intended to illegally enter our country." Some migrants received medical treatment.

Authorities initially spotted the ship outside Romanian territorial waters early Tuesday. It sent a distress signal and two coast guard boats were dispatched, but high waves and winds hampered rescue efforts before the ship was eventually towed to port.

Migrants are increasingly using the Black Sea route from Turkey to reach Romania. Last weekend, coast guard forces from Romania and Bulgaria intercepted 217 migrants in the Black Sea in two boats who were suspected of trying to illegally enter Romania.

France foiled 12 terror attacks: Twelve terror plots have been thwarted in France since the start of the year, Interior Minister **Gerard Collomb** said Tuesday, warning that the threat remains "strong".

Among the previously unpublicised cases was a planned attack, foiled in May, on an air force training school in the southern town of Salon-de-Provence, the minister said, without giving details.

Another plot targeting "a barracks, a police station or a supermarket with hostage-taking," was averted in January.

"The threat remains strong," Collomb told a parliamentary committee considering government proposals for new anti-terror laws.



Collomb

"We see that we are moving from an outside threat to an internal threat, and we have to be able to adapt to the evolution of this threat," he added.

In the most recent foiled plot, home-made explosives ready for use were found in an unoccupied flat near Paris last week.

The parliamentary deputies are considering the controversial terrorist law plans which are designed to replace, on November 1, the state of emergency which France has been under since Islamic State jihadists struck in Paris in November 2015, killing 130 people.

The new laws – a campaign pledge of President Emmanuel Macron – will give authorities the power to place people under house arrest, order house searches and ban public gatherings without the prior approval of a judge. (AFP)

❑ ❑ ❑

UK releases image of jogger: British police released a new image on Wednesday in a fresh bid to trace a male jogger who appeared to push a woman into the path of an oncoming bus on a busy London street four months ago.

Video footage of the apparently callous incident on Putney Bridge, southwest London, has been repeatedly screened on British television but the runner has yet to be found.

Footage shows him jog past one man on the bridge on May 5 before knocking into the 33-year-old victim. She tumbled head-first into the path of an oncoming bus, which managed to swerve out of her way, missing her by inches.

The new CCTV still was taken from the bus, and shows a white man in a grey top and dark shorts. Police said he came back the other way across the bridge 15 minutes later but did not acknowledge the victim when she tried to speak to him.

"Images of this alarming incident have been circulated widely and we continue to work through the information received to identify the man responsible," said Detective Sergeant Chris Griffith. (RTRS)

❑ ❑ ❑

French PM shrugs off protests: French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe has shrugged off nationwide protests against planned reforms to France's strict labour regulations, saying on Wednesday he was "listening" but would nonetheless press ahead with the bill.

In a sign that popular protest could gain momentum, truck drivers belonging to France's second and third largest unions said they would launch a rolling strike on Sept 25 to force the government into a reversal. Trucker strikes previously brought large parts of France to a halt, hurting the economy.

More than 200,000 trade unionists turned out on Tuesday for the first mass protests against the labour market reforms on Tuesday, part of a series of measures on Macron's agenda for change. Others, including reform to the unemployment benefits and pension systems, are likely to be even more contested.

The government plans to adopt the decrees on Sept. 22.

"I am listening and I am paying attention. But let me state that the French, when they vote, also have a right to be treated with respect," Philippe told France 2 television. "And the reform that we are putting in place was announced by the president at the time of his election."

Labour unions have thwarted previous attempts by governments on the political right and left to weaken France's strict labour code. In a change of tack, Macron's administration spent weeks negotiating its proposals with union bosses over the summer.

Last month, the government set out measures including a cap on payouts for dismissals judged unfair and greater freedom for companies to hire and fire. The reform makes no direct reference to the 35-hour week, a totem of the labour code, though it hands firms more flexibility to set pay and working conditions. (RTRS)

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Saakashvili to face court: Former Odessa governor Mikhail Saakashvili has been served legal notice by Ukrainian authorities after the stateless politician forced his way across the border from Poland, a move that puts him on a collision course with the government in Kiev.

Ukrainian border guards and police turned up at the hotel in the city of Lviv where Saakashvili was staying Tuesday and presented him with an official document detailing his alleged violation of crossing the border illegally.

Local media reported that the ex-Georgian president and former governor of Ukraine's Odessa region was ordered to appear at a court hearing over the incident on Monday. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑

'IS flags not flying in Bosnia': Islamic State flags are not flying in Bosnia, Prime Minister Denis Zvizdic said on Tuesday, dismissing allegations by some European leaders that radical Bosnian Muslims in the Balkan country were posing a terrorist threat for Europe.

Bosnian Muslims generally practise a moderate form of Islam but some have adopted radical Salafi Islam from foreign fighters who came to the country during its 1992-95 war to fight alongside Muslims against Orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats.

Some joined Islamic State in Syria and Iraq but police said departures had stopped completely in the past 18 months and more than half of those who returned have been jailed under a law prohibiting people to fight in foreign countries. (RTRS)



Sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah (center right), reviews a military honor guard with Chinese President Xi Jinping (center left), during a welcome ceremony outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Sept 13. Hassanal Bolkiah is on a state visit to China. (AFP)

Philippines

Prez won't show bank details

Duterte's foes, allies to block CHR budget cut

MANILA, Sept 13, (Agencies): Philippine President **Rodrigo Duterte's** critics and allies in the Senate vowed on Wednesday to block a lower house move to slash the annual budget of a public-funded human rights agency opposed to his bloody war on drugs to just $20.

The house, dominated by Duterte's supporters, voted on Tuesday to allocate a 2018 budget of just 1,000 pesos ($20) to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), which has investigated hundreds of killings during the president's ferocious anti-narcotics crackdown.

Vice-President Leni Robredo, who was not Duterte's running mate and has locked horns with him numerous times, said the lawmakers' move effectively abolishes the CHR, a constitutional body.



Duterte

Duterte's signature campaign has left thousands of mostly urban poor Filipinos dead. Critics say the lawmakers are trying to retaliate against the CHR for pursuing allegations of executions by police during sting operations, which police deny.

The CHR is among the domestic and foreign rights groups that Duterte frequently admonishes, accusing them of lecturing him and disregarding Filipinos who are victims of crimes stemming from drug addiction.

The upper house minority bloc, composed of six staunch critics of the president, will seek to restore the 678 million peso budget the government and a Senate sub-committee had proposed for the CHR.

Senator Risa Hontiveros described the plan to cut the budget to almost nil as "a shameless rejection of the country's international and national commitments to champion human rights".

Scrutinise

Several allies of Duterte in the 24-seat chamber said they would scrutinise the house move and try to ensure the commission had a budget that would allow it to work properly.

Senator Richard Gordon said the CHR had a job to do and should not be restricted.

"That is their role — to expose possible abuses," he said.

Another legislator, JV Ejercito said senators would not make the CHR impotent.

"The CHR is in the thick of things and very relevant nowadays and probably even next year and the years to follow because of what's happening," he said in a statement.

Duterte once threatened to abolish the CHR after its chief, Chito Gascon, sought to investigate alleged abuses by police anti-drugs units.

Duterte on Tuesday appeared to distance himself from the lawmakers proposing the meagre budget. He said CHR was constitutionally created and should probe whatever it wants, adding he was "not here to destroy institutions".

"He had it coming. He opens his mouth in a most inappropriate way. He knows nothing," Duterte said, referring to Gascon.

"The congressmen are really angry. I have nothing against him. Give them a budget for all I care, whatever he likes to investigate."

Duterte directly drew a link between Tuesday night's vote to cut the Commission on Human Rights' annual budget from 678 million pesos ($13 million) to 1,000 pesos and its investigations of the drug war killings and related criticism by its chairman.

"He had it coming," Duterte told reporters late Tuesday, referring to commission chairman Jose Gascon.

Angry

"They only gave him 1,000 pesos (about $20) because Congress is angry."

Duterte's allies in the lower house's justice committee on Wednesday also voted to impeach its chief justice after determining corruption allegations against her had substance.

The chief justice, Maria Lourdes Sereno, has been another critic of the drug war.

She wrote Duterte a letter last year expressing concern over him publicly naming seven judges as being involved in the drug trade, warning it made them vulnerable to being killed.

Duterte responded by threatening to declare martial law if Sereno continued to interfere in his drug war.

Should the entire house endorse the justice committee's findings against Sereno, the Senate would convene as an impeachment court.

"This leads us on a direct path to dictatorship," Senator Francis Pangilinan, leader of the Liberal Party, the country's main opposition group, said in response to Tuesday's vote.

Teodoro Casino, a former House member representing the left wing Bayan Muna party, expressed similar sentiments when commenting on the move against Sereno.

Also:

MANILA, Philippines: The Philippine president refused a demand by his most vocal critic to publicly release details of his bank accounts to disprove allegations that he had large sums of undeclared money.

President **Rodrigo Duterte** said in a news conference Wednesday that if opposition Sen **Antonio Trillanes IV** wanted "to get evidence, do not get it from my mouth. You must be stupid ... Why would I give you the pleasure?"

Trillanes first alleged Duterte had unexplained wealth during the presidential campaign last year. In February, he publicly raised the issue again because he said Duterte had not yet revealed details of the more than 2 billion pesos ($39 million) he allegedly kept in bank accounts as a former city mayor.

Duterte inadvertently brought the issue back to public focus recently when he alleged Trillanes has several undeclared joint bank accounts with unidentified Chinese men in **Hong Kong, Malaysia, Australia** and the **United States.**

Trillanes denied it and signed about a dozen waivers for authorities to look into the alleged bank accounts and demanded that Duterte do the same.

Duterte went on a personal attack against Trillanes, one of his harshest critics and a former navy officer once detained for a failed coup plot.



Japanese wrestler-turned-politician Kanji 'Antonio' Inoki speaks during a press conference at the Foreign Correspondent Club of Japan in Tokyo on Sept 13. Inoki, who has visited North Korea over 30 times, visited Pyongyang in time for the North Korean Foundation Day, on Sept 9. (AFP)



Yang



Lai

Asia

China ups 'cyber defences': China said on Wednesday it will create a national data repository for information on cyber attacks and require telecom firms, internet companies and domain name providers to report threats to it.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) said companies and telcos as well as government bodies must share information on incidents including Trojan malware, hardware vulnerabilities, and content linked to "malicious" IP addresses to the new platform. An MIIT policy note also said that the ministry, which is creating the platform, will be liable for disposing of threats under the new rules, which will take effect on Jan. 1.

Companies and network providers that fail to follow the rules will be subject to "warnings, fines and other administrative penalties", it said, without giving any details.

The law is the latest in a series of moves by Chinese authorities designed to guard core infrastructure and private enterprises against large-scale cyber attacks. (RTRS)

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Taiwan preps for typhoon: Taiwan issued a warning to ships and airlines cancelled some flights on Wednesday as the island braced for Typhoon Talim, which was expected to hit cities including the capital Taipei, before hurtling towards China potentially as a super typhoon.

Talim was expected to gain in strength as it sweeps towards Taiwan's northern cities, lashing them with strong wind and heavy rain, the Central Weather Bureau said.

The brunt of the storm would be felt later on Wednesday and on Thursday, when it was expected to slam into the north and northeast with maximum sustained wind speeds of 137 km per hour (85 mph) and gusts of up to 173 km per hour (107 mph), the bureau said.

"Typhoon Talim has been changing course and is not entirely predictable. It's been expected to hit Taiwan directly, but its trajectory has altered further northward and eastward," said Premier **William Lai.**

"But at this point our emergency operation centre has not lowered its level of alert," he added.

It had not yet been decided whether the Taiwan government would close financial markets, companies and schools on Thursday. (RTRS)

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NZ MP denies spying: A New Zealand lawmaker received military and intelligence training in China, it emerged Wednesday, but he denied allegations of being a Beijing spy, saying he was the victim of a racist smear campaign.

China-born MP **Jian Yang** was the subject of an investigation by New Zealand's intelligence services over his links to an elite Chinese spy school, according to a joint investigation by the Financial Times (FT) and newsroom.co.nz.

The media organisations said Jian, who was elected to parliament in 2011, had not disclosed his background as a teacher at China's top linguistics academy for military intelligence officers.

New Zealand is a member of the "Five Eyes" intelligence-sharing network, which also includes the United States, Britain, Canada and Australia.

The FT said no other Western nation was known to have a sitting MP with such extensive links to China's intelligence community.

The revelation "raises questions about Western preparedness to deal with China's increasingly aggressive efforts to influence foreign governments and spy on them," said the newspaper.

Jian condemned the "defamatory statements" and said he was a proud New Zealander who had been transparent about his background.

He also questioned the timing of the allegations ahead of a September 23 election, in which his ruling National Party is in a tight race to retain power.

"This is a smear campaign by nameless people who are out to damage me and the National Party 10 days from an election, just because I am Chinese," he said in a statement. (AFP)

North Korea

South Korea conducts cruise missile drill amid tensions

N. Korea vows to boost arms programmes

SEOUL, Sept 13, (Agencies): North Korea vowed Wednesday to accelerate its weapons programmes in response to "evil" sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council following its latest and most powerful nuclear test.

The respected 38 North website in the US raised its estimate for the yield from the explosion, which Pyongyang says was a hydrogen bomb small enough to fit onto a missile, to around 250 kilotons — more than 16 times the size of the device that devastated Hiroshima in 1945.

The detonation, Pyongyang's sixth nuclear blast, prompted global condemnation and came after it carried out two intercontinental ballistic missile launches in July that appeared to bring much of the US into range.

The UN Security Council unanimously imposed an eighth set of sanctions on the North Monday, banning it from trading in textiles and restricting its oil imports, which US President Donald Trump said was a prelude to stronger measures.

The resolution, passed after Washington toned down its original proposals to secure backing from China and Russia, came just one month after the council banned exports of coal, lead and seafood in response to the ICBM launch.

The North's foreign ministry condemned the new measures "in the strongest terms", calling them a "full-scale economic blockade" driven by the US and aimed at "suffocating" its state and people.

It was "another illegal and evil 'resolution on sanctions' piloted by the US", it said in a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency.

"The DPRK will redouble the efforts to increase its strength to safeguard the country's sovereignty and right to existence," the ministry said, using the abbreviation for the North's official name.

But the South's unification ministry described the statement as "the most low-key form of response from North Korea to UN Security Council resolutions".

Seoul conducted its first live-fire exercise of its new long-range Taurus missile in response to the nuclear test, its Air Force said.

The German air-to-surface weapon was capable of precision strikes on key North Korean facilities even if launched from the central part of the South, it added.

The US and its allies argue that tougher sanctions will pile pressure on North Korea to negotiate an end to its weapons programmes but experts are sceptical.

Measures

US President Donald Trump said the latest measures were a "very small step — not a big deal" that must lead to tougher measures.

"Those sanctions are nothing compared to ultimately what will happen," Trump said, but added that it was "nice to get a 15 to nothing vote".

The North says it needs nuclear weapons to protect itself from "hostile" US forces and analysts believe Pyongyang's weapons programme has made rapid progress under leader Kim Jong-Un, with previous sanctions having done little to deter it.

Government estimates of the yield from its sixth nuclear test vary from South Korea's 50 kilotons to Japan's 160, but 38 North, which is linked to Johns Hopkins University in the US, raised its estimate to "roughly 250 kilotons", in line with upward revisions for the magnitude of the resulting tremor.

South Korea's Nuclear Safety and Security Commission said Wednesday it had collected a small amount of xenon-133 — a radioactive isotope of the inert gas that does not occur naturally — that was "linked to the latest nuclear test".

But the commission said in a statement it was "unable to confirm what type of nuclear test was conducted".

Washington had initially sought a full oil embargo and a freeze on the foreign assets of leader Kim Jong-Un in response to the blast, but dropped them following strong opposition from China and Russia.

The new resolution instead bans trade in textiles, cuts off natural gas shipments to North Korea, places a ceiling of 2 million barrels a year on deliveries of refined oil products and caps crude oil shipments at current levels. Retail petrol prices in the North jumped earlier this year, with some analysts suggesting the authorities were stockpiling in the expectation of a ban.

According to the US mission to the United Nations, the North imports around 8.5 million barrels a year of oil and oil products, 4 million as crude and 4.5 million in refined form — which includes substances such as petrol and diesel.

It added that the North's textile exports averaged $760 million a year.

Authorisations

The UN resolution also barred countries from issuing new authorisations to North Korean workers sent abroad. There are almost 100,000 of them, according to the US mission, earning more than $500 million a year for the regime.

Under the measure, joint ventures with North Korean entities are prohibited, while governments are authorised to inspect ships suspected of carrying banned cargo from the country, but must first seek the consent of the vessels' flag state.

Meanwhile, South Korea said Wednesday it had conducted its first live-fire drill for an advanced air-launched cruise missile that would strengthen its pre-emptive strike capability against North Korea in the event of crisis.

South Korea's military said the Taurus missile fired from an F-15 fighter jet traveled through obstacles at low altitudes before hitting a target off the country's western coast during drills Tuesday.

The missile, manufactured by Germany's Taurus Systems, has a maximum range of 500 kms (310 miles) and is equipped with stealth characteristics that will allow it to avoid radar detection before hitting North Korean targets, according to Seoul's Defense Ministry.

South Korea has been accelerating efforts to ramp up its military capabilities in face of a torrent of nuclear weapons tests by North Korea, which on Sept 3 conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test to date.

Shortly after the nuke test, Seoul announced it reached an agreement with Washington to remove the warhead weight limits on South Korean ballistic missiles, which under a bilateral guideline could be built for a maximum range of 800 kms (497 miles).

A pre-emptive strike against Pyongyang's leadership would be difficult to undertake, but it's widely seen as the most realistic of the limited military options Seoul has to deny a nuclear attack from its rival.

In related news, the standoff over North Korea could lead to "nuclear war", a Japanese pro-wrestler turned lawmaker warned on Wednesday, urging nations to dial down the tension after the isolated country fired a missile over northern Japan last month.

Tokyo could play a role in mediating with its neighbour, said the 74-year-old Antonio Inoki, who is known for fighting boxer Muhammad Ali four decades ago.

"We are seeing a situation where each raises his fist and the situation is escalating," Inoki, who recently returned from his 32nd visit to Pyongyang, told a news conference, wearing his signature red scarf.

"It's important to see who can be the first to lower his fist and reduce the tension," said Inoki, who, like US basketball star Dennis Rodman, has made numerous visits to North Korea.

Pyongyang must commit to denuclearisation as a prerequisite for talks, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in an interview with the Nikkei business daily published on Wednesday.



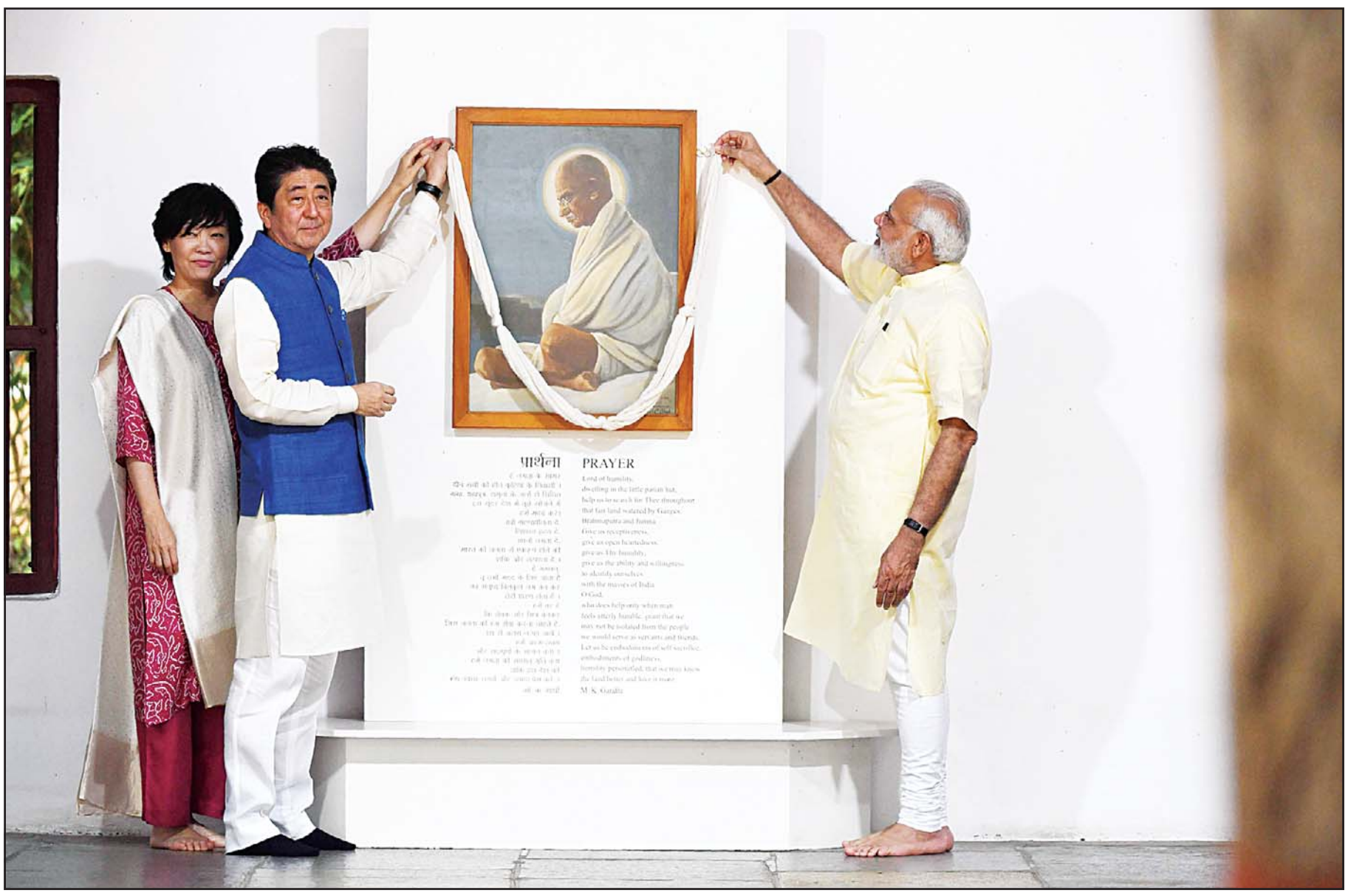
Singapore's new president-elect Halimah Yacob (left), greets her supporters at the nomination centre in Singapore on Sept 13. An establishment stalwart was named Singapore's first female president on Sept 13, but the milestone was overshadowed by criticism her selection was undemocratic after she was handed the job without a vote. (AFP)

Yacob S'pore 1st woman president

SINGAPORE, Sept 13, (RTRS): Singapore named former speaker of parliament Halimah Yacob as the multicultural city-state's first woman president on Wednesday while critics expressed dismay that other candidates were disqualified and the election went uncontested.

Aiming to strengthen a sense of inclusivity, Singapore had decreed the presidency, a largely ceremonial six-year post, would be reserved for candidates from the minority Malay community this time.

World News Roundup



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (center), and his wife Akie Abe pay their respects to Mahatma Gandhi along with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right), during their visit to Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad on Sept 13. India's premier Narendra Modi and Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe were preparing to break ground on India's first bullet train project on Sept 14, during an official visit to India by the Japanese prime minister. (AFP)

Pakistan

Khan considers run for PM

Sharif heir-apparent takes the 'limelight'

LAHORE, Sept 13, (RTRS): In campaigning for a Pakistan by-election seen as a test of support for ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the most visible figure is not on the ballot: Sharif's daughter, **Maryam,** widely touted as his political heir-apparent.

This past weekend, crowds mobbed Maryam's car and threw rose petals as she crisscrossed the eastern city of Lahore campaigning for her mother, Kulsoom, who is the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party's candidate to contest the seat Nawaz was forced to vacate by a Supreme Court ruling in July.

With Kulsoom in London for cancer surgery, accompanied by Nawaz, 43-year-old Maryam has led the campaign with fiery speeches denouncing Nawaz's opponents and the Supreme Court.

Her influence within the PML-N has grown in recent years, with senior party figures crediting her with Nawaz's move to embrace relatively more pro-women and liberal causes in a staunchly conservative nation of 208 million people.



Maryam

In a rare interview with foreign media, Maryam outlined to Reuters what drives her political ambitions as she emerges from her father's shadow to become a prominent figure in the ruling party he still controls.

"I'm proud to be the torch bearer of ideology which PML-N has," Maryam said at the weekend in Punjab's provincial capital Lahore, her father's electoral power base. "I am (Nawaz's) reflection, I am his extension. I have grown up espousing his agenda, his ideology."

Maryam has framed the election as a chance for voters to protest the Supreme Court's verdict against her father and help the PML-N flex its electoral muscle.

"Your vote was disrespected and disregarded, will you answer to this disrespect on Sept. 17?" Maryam asked at a recent rally. The by-election is seen as a litmus test for the PML-N's political fortunes in the wake of Nawaz's ouster, and an early indicator of voter sentiment ahead of a general election next year.

Also:

ISLAMABAD: As **Pakistan's** cricketing hero turned politician **Imran Khan** considers a run for prime minister, his party's record in his home province — especially the success of a widely touted reforestation initiative — is raising speculation that he might turn green advances into political advantage.

Pakistan is set to choose a new prime minister in elections due next year. Environmental issues remain far from the top of the list of concerns for most voters, despite worsening climate-related heat, drought, floods and other pressures.

But the record of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, in his home province of Khyber Pukhtunkwa, is gradually bringing him a bigger national political profile — and new possibilities.

After winning enough seats in 2013 to form a government in the province, in the country's north, Khan's party introduced a green growth initiative to tackle deforestation, build more small-scale hydroelectric projects and overhaul national parks.

It has promised a Billion Tree Tsunami of tree planting — and last month became the first government body in the world to meet its pledge under the Bonn Challenge of restoring more than 350,000 hectares (865,000 acres) of degraded forests.

The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to restore 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.

"I have trekked all over Pakistan's mountainous north and it alarmed me to see all the cutting of forests," Khan told Thomson Reuters Foundation in an interview.

By replanting forests, Khyber Pukhtunkwa province "has taken important steps to save future generations from the dangerous effects of environmental changes," he said.

The aim is to increase the area covered by forests in the province from 22 percent in 2013 to as much as 27 percent by 2018 through the Billion Tree Tsunami and the creation of new national parks in forested areas, he said. More than 40 percent of Pakistan's natural forests are found within the province.



In this Sept 10, 2017 photo, a Rohingya girl peeps out from her temporary shelter at a camp in Kathmandu, Nepal. Recent violence in Myanmar has driven hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims to seek refuge across the border in Bangladesh. (AP)

Subcontinent

Germany deports 8 Afghans: Eight Afghans expelled from Germany arrived in Kabul on Wednesday as Berlin resumed deportations of rejected asylum seekers from the war-torn country months after suspending the process when a huge truck bomb hit the Afghan capital.

Germany put the controversial expulsions on hold after a sewage tanker packed with explosives detonated near the German embassy in Kabul's diplomatic quarter on May 31, killing around 150 people and wounding hundreds more.

The latest group represented the sixth wave of repatriations of Afghans from Germany since December under a disputed Afghan-European Union deal aimed at curbing the influx of migrants.

In Berlin, Interior Minister **Thomas de Maiziere** defended the latest deportation, saying that "all eight persons have been convicted of serious crimes", without specifying the offences.

De Maiziere said that Germany would stick with its policy of returning to Afghanistan convicted criminals, people feared by police to be planning an attack, and those who refuse to cooperate with authorities or give their names.

After arriving at Kabul airport on a charter flight, the eight deportees were escorted by police to a car park where an official registered their names.

Some of the men carried small backpacks while others had no luggage at all. (AFP)

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Bomber kills 3 in Afghanistan: Authorities say a suicide bomber has attacked a cricket stadium in the Afghan capital of Kabul, killing at least three people and wounding at least seven.

Basir Mujahid, spokesman for Kabul police, said the attack just outside the gates of the stadium happened Wednesday as hundreds of people were inside enjoying a cricket match.

On Aug 29, a suicide bombing in a busy commercial area in Kabul near a string of banks and not far from the US Embassy killed at least five people.

The Taleban claimed responsibility for that attack. (AP)

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'US has not issued demands': Pakistan has not received specific requests from the US to target alleged militant sanctuaries, Prime Minister **Shahid Khaqan Abbasi** said Tuesday, as he vowed to tighten security along the border with Afghanistan.

The premier's remarks come weeks after President Donald Trump lambasted Pakistan during a speech outlining US policy on Afghanistan, accusing Islamabad of hosting safe havens for insurgents who cross the border to attack Afghan and NATO forces.

During a press conference Abbasi denied the accusations that Pakistan supported militants groups as he batted away suggestions that Trump's comments would upend relations between the Cold War allies.

"We don't think the Pakistani-US relationship will be defined by Afghanistan," the prime minister told reporters in Islamabad.

"This relationship (is) 70 years old (and) cannot be redefined by one issue or it should not be redefined by one issue." (AFP)

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De Maizieri



Abbasi

Unrest

Suu Kyi skips UN meet

Qaeda warn of punishment

YANGON, Sept 13, (Agencies): Al-Qaeda militants have called for support for Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims, who are facing a security crackdown that has sent about 400,000 of them fleeing to Bangladesh, warning that Myanmar would face "punishment" for its "crimes".

The exodus of Muslim refugees from Buddhist-majority Myanmar was sparked by a fierce security force response to a series of Rohingya militant attacks on police and army posts in the country's west on Aug 25.

The Islamist group behind the Sept 11, 2001, attacks on the Untied States issued a statement urging Muslims around the world to support their fellow Muslims in Myanmar with aid, weapons and "military support".

"The savage treatment meted out to our Muslim brothers ... shall not pass without punishment," al-Qaeda said in a statement, according to the SITE monitoring group.

"The government of Myanmar shall be made to taste what our Muslim brothers have tasted."

Myanmar says its security forces are engaged in a legitimate campaign against "terrorists", whom it blames for attacks on the police and army, and on civilians.

The government has warned of bomb attacks in cities, and al Qaeda's call to arms is likely to compound those concerns.

"We call upon all mujahid brothers in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and the Philippines to set out for Burma to help their Muslim brothers, and to make the necessary preparations - training and the like - to resist this oppression," the group said.

Condemnation

Meanwhile, with Myanmar drawing condemnation for violence that has driven at least 370,000 Rohingya to flee the country, the government said Wednesday its leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, will skip this month's UN General Assembly.

Suu Kyi will miss the assembly, which opened Tuesday and runs through Sept. 25, in order to address domestic security issues, according to presidential office spokesman Zaw Htay.

Suu Kyi is not Myanmar's president — her official titles are state counselor and foreign minister — but she effectively serves as leader of the Southeast Asian nation.

Zaw Htay said that, with President Htin Kyaw hospitalized, second Vice President Henry Van Tio would attend the UN meeting.

"The first reason (Suu Kyi cannot attend) is because of the Rakhine terrorist attacks," Zaw Htay said. "The state counselor is focusing to calm the situation in Rakhine state. There are circumstances.

The second reason is, there are people inciting riots in some areas. We are trying to take care of the security issue in many other places. The third is that we are hearing that there will be terrorist attacks and we are trying to address this issue."

Support

Meanwhile, US Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said on Tuesday he would not support a resolution targeting Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi over the treatment of the country's Rohingya Muslims, and said Washington should not be "lecturing" her.

"I don't favor a resolution going after her," McConnell, who has been engaged with issues related to Myanmar, also known as Burma, for years. "I think she's the greatest hope that we have to move Burma from where it has been, a military dictatorship, to where I hope it's going."

Senators John McCain, a Republican, and Richard Durbin, a Democrat, introduced a resolution last week condemning the violence and urging Suu Kyi to act.

But McConnell said he did not support the resolution.

The Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee is canning plans to expand US military ties with Myanmar because of its persecution of minority Rohingya (ROH'-hin-GAH') Muslims.

Sen John McCain said in a statement Tuesday that he had hoped for greater US engagement with Myanmar after it transitioned to civilian government last year, ending decades of military rule in the Southeast Asian nation.

But he said circumstances have changed, with 370,000 Rohingya fleeing violence and destruction in the last month in what the United Nations has described as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing."

'Ban shotgun pellets': A human rights group has called on India to immediately ban the use of shotguns by government forces in suppressing protests against Indian rule in disputed Kashmir, saying pellets fired by the weapons have blinded and killed people indiscriminately.

Amnesty International also criticized Indian authorities for failing to support those who have been injured and disabled by the weapons.

Although shotguns have been in use in Kashmir since 2010, government forces fired them widely during months of civilian protests against Indian rule in 2016 after Indian forces killed a popular militant leader.

Since then, pellets fired by shotguns have killed at least 14 people and blinded hundreds.

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan and is claimed by both countries. (AP)

Africa

25 dead in C. Africa

McKinsey caught up in SA scandal

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 13, (Agencies): Global consultancy McKinsey, facing parliamentary hearings in South Africa over payments to a firm controlled by a billionaire family, ignored suspicions raised over several years by local senior staff that companies it worked with were set up to steer state contracts, two former employees said.



Zuma

Since July, when new information emerged about McKinsey's flagship South African contract, the consultancy has been under increasing scrutiny in a widening corruption scandal over the influence of the Gupta family, businessman friends of President **Jacob Zuma.**

South Africa's parliamentary committee on public enterprises is investigating whether McKinsey knowingly let funds from state utility Eskom be diverted to a Gupta company as a way of securing a $78 million contract to advise Eskom. McKinsey denies wrongdoing and says it intends to cooperate with the authorities if evidence of any impropriety emerges.

"We hold ourselves to the highest professional standards wherever we work and stand firmly against corruption. We are committed to ascertaining the facts and swiftly taking any and all appropriate action," spokesman Steve John told Reuters.

McKinsey has hired law firm Norton Rose Fullbright to assist in an internal investigation. Norton Rose said it would not comment while its probe is under way.

The accounts by the two former employees, who spoke to Reuters separately on condition of anonymity because their present jobs do not permit them to speak to the media, could provide fodder for lawmakers who say they have questions about the timeline McKinsey has given of when it learned of potential problems.

McKinsey says it carried out a due diligence review on its partner in the Eskom deal beginning in January 2016, and cut all ties with the local firm two months later after it concluded the company was unfit.

"We carry out checks on suppliers and partners when we work with them and address issues and concerns when they arise. When concerns were raised we undertook due diligence," spokesman John said in a written response to questions.

But the ex-employees said they had attended meetings in Johannesburg where problems with that firm and a precursor company employing the same principal staff had been discussed much earlier: as far back as 2013.

❑ ❑ ❑

C. Africa clash kills 25: At least 25 people in the Central African Republic have been killed in recent sectarian clashes between armed groups, while a new wave of thousands have been made homeless by the violence, the UN said Tuesday.

In the central city of Bria, preliminary estimates indicate "at least 10 bodies and about 50 wounded" after fighting between two rival factions of an armed group on Sept 7 and 8, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in its weekly report, received by AFP.

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CAR defense min sacked: Central African Republic president Faustin-Archange Touadera sacked his defense minister on Tuesday evening, according to a state radio broadcast, amid growing violence that threatens to spin the country out of control.

The dismissal of Levy Yakete, who was blacklisted by a United Nations Security Council committee in 2014 for his role in a bloody 2013 civil war, was part of a wider Cabinet reshuffle. The statement did not say if his dismissal was related directly to growing violence.

❑ ❑ ❑

Kenya opposition in boycott: Kenya's opposition boycotted the opening session of parliament on Tuesday after the Supreme Court cancelled the result of last month's presidential election and ordered a fresh vote.

President Uhuru Kenyatta — who had his victory in the Aug 8 poll annulled on Sept 1 — led proceedings, while opposition lawmakers made good on a promise to boycott the ceremony.

Supreme Court judges normally attend the opening of parliament but also stayed away.

❑ ❑ ❑

Violence erupts in Haiti: Protesters brought parts of the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince to a standstill Tuesday, setting vehicles alight and damaging local businesses in violent demonstrations against the government's budget plans.

"These little thieves in Parliament voted for this budget to help the government exploit the people," said protester Marco Paul Delva, standing by a barricade of flaming tires near the legislature.

Lat/Am

Lula faces new grilling: Brazil's once hugely popular president Luis Inacio Lula da Silva faces a new grilling Wednesday by the country's chief anti-corruption judge, Sergio Moro, in a case that could decide whether Lula can return to power.

Lula, who is a frontrunner in the October 2018 presidential election despite multiple corruption charges, will be questioned by Moro in the southern city of Curitiba.

The testimony is part of 71-year-old Lula's trial for alleged bribe taking from the scandal-plagued Odebrecht construction giant. He is already a defendant in four other corruption trials.

And in July, Moro sentenced Lula to 9.5 years prison after being convicted in a sixth trial of receiving a seaside apartment from the OAS construction company in return for help obtaining lucrative contracts with the Petrobras oil company.

Lula, the founder of Brazil's leftist Workers' Party, is free pending appeal of that sentence and hopes to string out or defeat the other cases so that he can run for a third term next year.

But problems are mounting for the man whose 2003-2010 presidency made him Latin America's new leftist giant. (AFP)

❑ ❑ ❑

Copter carrying aid 'down': Civil defense officials say a Russian-built military helicopter went down Tuesday while carrying relief aid to a quake-ravaged part of Mexico.

The governor of the southern state of Chiapas wrote in his Twitter account that the Mi-17 transport helicopter was heading to the Chiapas town of Jaltenango when it went down. Gov Manuel Velasco didn't give any details on injuries.

But the state's civil defense director told the Milenio television network that seven military personnel and one civil defense worker aboard the craft had made contact with rescue workers and said some had been injured. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑



A woman walks past pictures of an old car bomb attack by the Shining Path terrorist group, during a ceremony commemorating 25 years of the capture of Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman, outside the National Palace in Lima, Peru on Sept 12. (AP)

Shining Path leaders no show: A Peruvian court trying Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman and other members of his group over a deadly 1992 bombing in Lima adjourned Tuesday after he failed to show up.

The court hearing coincided with the 25th anniversary of the capture of Guzman, who is serving a life sentence for terrorism offenses.

But it quickly adjourned when it became clear Guzman and other Shining Path leaders on trial had not been transferred to the court from prison. (AFP)

Venezuela

Breakthrough in political standoff

Maduro accepts talks with opposition

CARACAS, Sept 13, (AFP): Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said Tuesday his government was prepared to meet the opposition for talks, offering a glimpse of a breakthrough in a political standoff marked by months of deadly protests.

Maduro made the surprise announcement in a televised cabinet meeting in Caracas.

He told his ministers he would accept to undertake talks brokered by Dominican Republic President Danilo Medina and ex-Spanish premier Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

"Zapatero and President Medina know very well that I have been a promoter of this dialogue and I accept this new day of dialogue," Maduro said.

Maduro appointed influential Caracas politician Jorge Rodriguez as his representative at the talks, and said he would leave for the Dominican Republic "in the next few hours."

The opposition announced in turn that it would hold an exploratory meeting on Wednesday with the Dominican president.

However, it insisted it did not mean it was the beginning of formal talks with the government.

"The time for symbolic gestures is over," the opposition coalition Democratic Unity Roundtable said.

"To enter into serious negotiation, we demand immediate actions that demonstrate a real willingness to resolve the national problems and not to win time," it said.

Oil-rich Venezuela is facing a growing economic crisis that has caused shortages of food and medicine as it faces the prospect of default to its Russian and Chinese creditors.

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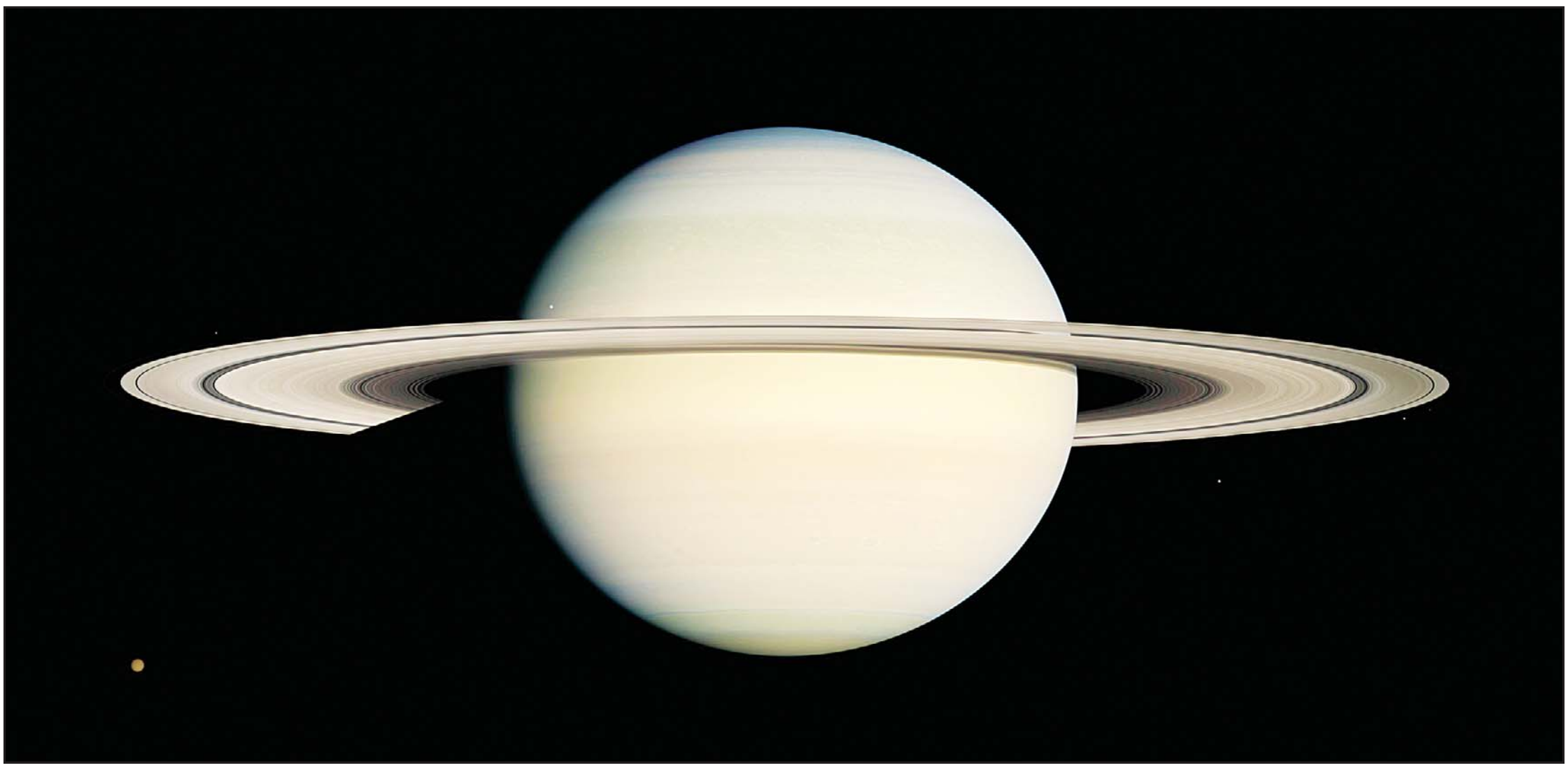
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World News Roundup



This July 23, 2008 image made available by NASA shows the planet Saturn, as seen from the Cassini spacecraft. (AP)

Architecture

New 'Spaceship' HQ

'Apple Park' nestled in the Earthly Oasis

CUPERTINO, United States, Sept 13, (AFP): Apple's new "spaceship" headquarters peeked above a nearby hillside as the sun shined gloriously through towering glass walls of the entryway to Steve Jobs Theater.

The smell of freshly turned soil was heavy in the warming air even as the site was inaugurated with the unveiling of a 10th anniversary iPhone at Apple Park in Silicon Valley.

"Apple Park has been built to reflect Apple's values for technology and the environment," chief executive **Tim Cook** said after paying tribute to late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs at the first-ever media event at the new campus Tuesday.

"The park itself was converted from a sea of asphalt to a green space with more than 9,000 trees; designed to be transparent with nature and bring the outside in."

Glass walls give the feeling of remaining in nature even after stepping inside.

Plants and trees taking root throughout the grand campus are native to California, and drought-resistant.

All the electricity needed to run the campus comes from an on-site solar power system, one of the largest in the world. Light streams down onto a curved stairway made of gold-toned stone leading down to Steve Jobs Theater built into the hill.

"Steve Jobs was an incredibly detail-oriented person, and this was his baby," said Creative Strategies analyst and Silicon Valley veteran Tim Bajarin.

"This should be a crown jewel in the sense of design."

Apple Park was created with "extraordinary attention to detail and materials," according to Cook.

A visitors center that will open to the public later this year features an augmented reality experience to virtually explore the campus.



Cook

About six months ago, workers began boarding the futuristic new campus, fulfilling a vision set out by Jobs, the company's late founder.

The process of moving more than 12,000 people to a new campus that Jobs envisioned as a "center for creativity and collaboration" was expected to continue late into the year.

A theater on the new Apple Park campus was named in honor of Jobs, who died six years ago after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Vision

"Steve's vision for Apple stretched far beyond his time with us," Cook said in a release earlier this year.

"He intended Apple Park to be the home of innovation for generations to come."

The 175-acre (70-hectare) campus with a ring-shaped main building clad in giant panels of curved glass blends workspaces and parkland.

"I was amazed at the landscape," Bajarin said after leaving Apple Park.

"It was staggering how huge the campus is."

The ring design is aimed at fostering better collaboration among those working inside.

"It is a unique design; very different that what you think of with a Silicon Valley campus," analyst Bajarin said.

"We are used to campuses where there are multi-story buildings close together – Apple broke with convention."

Campus features include a fitness center, foot paths, research labs and an orchard.

"We have approached the design, engineering and making of our new campus with the same enthusiasm and design principles that characterize our products," Apple chief design officer Jony Ive said in a statement.

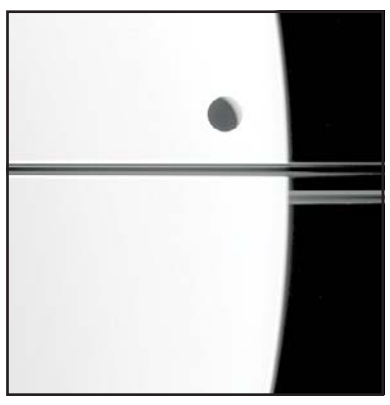
Apple celebrated its 40th anniversary last year. The Silicon Valley legend sprang out of Jobs's garage to reshape modern life with trend-setting gadgets.

Jobs, a tech-savvy marketing genius, and Steve Wozniak, who invented the Apple computer, formed what would become the world's largest corporation with eye-popping annual profits.

The two college dropouts created the company that has changed the way people use computers, listen to music, communicate on the go, and made people at home in a world of "apps" tailored for work, play, education, health and more.

Apple's hit products command a cult-like following, long after the company's humble beginning in Jobs's Cupertino, California garage on April 1, 1976.

The new campus is in Cupertino as well, with the Jobs Theater on a hilltop overlooking meadows and the main building.



This May 21, 2015 image made available by NASA shows Saturn's moon Dione crossing the face of the gas giant, in a phenomenon astronomers call a transit. Transits play an important role in astronomy and can be used to study the orbits of planets and their atmospheres, both in our solar system and in others. (AP)



Kouroublis



Pruitt

Discovery

Blame game in Greece oil spill: Greek officials traded accusations Wednesday after an oil spill from a sunken tanker spread to the Athens port of Piraeus.

The 45-year-old vessel Agia Zoni II sank on Sunday near the island of Salamis while under anchor but the cause is still not known.

"This is a major environmental disaster," said Salamis mayor Isidora Nannou-Papathanassiou, whose island is suffering the brunt of the damage from the slick.

"Clearly the danger (of pollution) was not estimated correctly," Nannou-Papathanassiou told state television ERT. "The currents moved the oil spill."

The Greek-flagged tanker was carrying around 2,500 tonnes of fuel, some of which quickly covered beaches and coves on the southeastern side of the island, opposite Athens and Piraeus, the country's biggest port.

Merchant Marine Minister **Panagiotis Kouroublis** insisted this week that all necessary action had been taken, and that the ship's hull had been secured against further leakage.

"There is no risk of further seepage. The oil leaked as the ship was sinking. All necessary steps have been taken," Kouroublis told Real FM radio. (AFP)

❑ ❑ ❑

Firms calculate carbon footprints: Microsoft, Walt Disney Co. and General Motors are among hundreds of companies calculating how much they spend on carbon emissions to show investors they are concerned about global warming, a study said on Tuesday.

More than 700 other businesses around the world plan by 2018 to introduce so-called carbon pricing, said the report by the US-based Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES).

The findings come amid efforts by U.S. President Donald Trump to scale back climate change-related regulations on grounds they are burdensome to the economy.

Putting a monetary value on carbon dioxide emissions helps limit the burning of fossil fuel, which contributes to global warming, and signals to investors that companies are aware of the financial risks posed by global warming, the study said.

Some 500 companies, including 80 in the United States, reported using carbon pricing, it said, drawing on an array of previous research.

Many oil and gas companies such as British energy company BP use an internal, or "shadow," accounting method to track their carbon emissions, it said. (RTRS)

❑ ❑ ❑

EPA probes Arkema: US environmental regulators are investigating whether the Arkema chemical plant in Texas followed safety rules ahead of explosions last month caused by flooding from Hurricane Harvey, according to media reports.

The Environmental Protection Agency has asked the company whether it followed risk management plans submitted to the government ahead of the explosions at the plant, which began on August 31, EPA Administrator **Scott Pruitt** told the Washington Examiner.

Unprecedented flooding from Hurricane Harvey, which made landfall in southeast Texas on August 26, cut power and knocked out backup generators at the plant – disabling the refrigeration required to prevent volatile organic peroxides from exploding.

Authorities had already evacuated an area within a 1.5 mile (2.4 kms) radius of the plant. But emergency workers who responded to the explosions have since sued the plant's operators for exposing them to smoke.

"There is some question about whether the RMP that was in place was actually complied with," Pruitt told Washington Examiner, referring to a risk management plan. The September 7 letter gave Arkema 10 days to answer to EPA queries.

The EPA wants to determine what quantity of chemical substances were stored at the plant and what safety measures had been taken in advance of possible flooding and power loss. (AFP)

❑ ❑ ❑

'Monster fatberg' clogs sewer: Sewage workers have found a 130-tonne ball of congealed fat – dubbed a "monster fatberg" – clogging a Victorian-era sewer in London, utility company Thames Water said Tuesday.

Engineers expect it will take up to three-weeks to remove the rock-solid mass of festering food fat mixed with sanitary wipes found in drains under a major road in Whitechapel, east London.

"This fatberg is up there with the biggest we've ever seen. It's a total monster and taking a lot of manpower and machinery to remove as it's set hard," Matt Rimmer, Thames Water's head of waste, said in a statement.

"It's basically like trying to break up concrete. It's frustrating as these situations are totally avoidable and caused by fat, oil and grease being washed down sinks and wipes flushed down the loo," he added.

Images show that the sewer totally blocked by the 250-metre (273-yard) long fatberg. (Agencies)

Space

3 astronauts reach ISS for 5-month mission

Cassini faces fiery finish

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, Sept 13, (AP): After a 20-year voyage, NASA's Cassini spacecraft is poised to dive into Saturn this week to become forever one with the exquisite planet.

There's no turning back: Friday it careens through the atmosphere and burns up like a meteor in the sky over Saturn.

NASA is hoping for scientific dividends up until the end. Every tidbit of data radioed back from Cassini will help astronomers better understand the entire Saturnian system – rings, moons and all.

The only spacecraft ever to orbit Saturn, Cassini spent the past five months exploring the uncharted territory between the gaseous planet and its dazzling rings. It's darted 22 times between that gap, sending back ever more wondrous photos.

On Monday, Cassini flew past jumbo moon Titan one last time for a gravity assist– a final kiss goodbye, as NASA calls it, nudging the spacecraft into a deliberate, no-way-out path.

During its final plunge early Friday morning, Cassini will keep sampling Saturn's atmosphere and beaming back data, until the spacecraft loses control and its antenna no longer points toward Earth. Descending at a scorching 76,000 mph (122,000 kph), Cassini will melt and then vaporize. It should be all over in a minute.

"The mission has been insanely, wildly, beautifully successful, and it's coming to an end," said NASA program scientist Curt Niebur. "I find great comfort in the fact that Cassini will continue teaching us up to the very last second."

Telescopes on Earth will watch for Cassini's burnout nearly a billion miles (1.6 billion kilometers) away. But any flashes will be hard to see given the time – close to high noon at Saturn – and Cassini's minuscule size against the solar system's second largest planet.

The plutonium on board will be the last thing to go. The dangerous substance was encased in super-dense iridium as a safeguard for Cassini's 1997 launch and has been used for electric power to run its instruments. Project officials said once the iridium melts, the plutonium will be dispersed into the atmosphere. Nothing – not even traces of plutonium – should escape Saturn's deep gravity well.

The whole point of this one last exercise – dubbed the Grand Finale – is to prevent the spacecraft from crashing into the moons of Enceladus (ehn-SE-HL'-uh-duhs) or Titan. NASA wants future robotic explorers to find pristine worlds where life might possibly exist, free of Earthly contamination.

It's inevitable that the $3.9 billion US-European mission is winding down. Cassini's fuel tank is almost empty, and its objectives have been accomplished many times over since its 2004 arrival at Saturn following a seven-year journey.

The leader of Cassini's imaging team, planetary scientist Carolyn Porco, already feels the loss.

Successful

"There's another part of me that's just, 'It's time. We did it.' Cassini was so profoundly, scientifically successful," said Porco, a visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley. "It's amazing to me even, what we were able to do right up until the end."

Until Cassini, only three spacecraft had ventured into Saturn's neighborhood: NASA's Pioneer 11 in 1979 and Voyager 1 and 2 in the early 1980s. Those were just flybys, though, and offered fleeting glances. And so Cassini and its traveling companion, the Huygens (HOY'-gens) lander, actually provided the first hard look at Saturn, its rings and moons. They are named for 17th-century astronomers, Italian Giovanni Domenico Cassini and Dutch Christiaan Huygens, who spotted Saturn's first moon, Titan. The current count is 62.

Cassini discovered six moons – some barely a mile or two across – as well as swarms of moonlets that are still part of Saturn's rings.

All told, Cassini has traveled 4.9 billion miles (7.9 billion kilometers) since launch, orbited Saturn nearly 300 times and collected more than 453,000 pictures and 635 gigabytes of scientific data.

The European Space Agency's Huygens lander – which hitchhiked all the way to Saturn aboard Cassini – still rests on Titan. It parachuted down in 2005, about six months after Cassini arrived at Saturn, and relayed data for more than an hour from the moon's frigid surface.

Still believed intact, Huygens remains the only spacecraft to actually land in one of our outer planetary systems.

Other than Titan's size – about as big as Mercury – little was known about Saturn's biggest and haze-covered moon before Cassini and Huygens showed up. They revealed seas and lakes of methane and ethane at Titan – the result of rainfall – and provided evidence of an underground ocean, quite possibly a brew of water and ammonia.

Over at the little moon Enceladus, Cassini unveiled plumes of water vapor spewing from cracks at the south pole.

Also:

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan: Two US astronauts and a Russian cosmonaut docked at the International Space Station for a five month mission on Wednesday following a night-time launch from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Russia's Roscosmos space agency said that the Soyuz MS-06 spacecraft "successfully docked" at the ISS at 0255 GMT in a statement on its website.

The Soyuz rocket carrying **Alexander Misurkin** of Roscosmos, NASA first-time flyer **Mark Vande Hei** and his veteran colleague **Joe Acaba** launched as scheduled from Baikonur at 3:17 am (2117 GMT).

The trio will now join **Paolo Nespoli** of Italy, **Sergey Riazanski** of Russia and **Randy Bresnik** of the US aboard the orbital lab.



Members of the International Space Station (ISS) expedition 53/54, US astronauts Jozseph Akaba (left, Mark Vande Hel (right), and Russia's cosmonaut Alexander Misurkin (center), attend a sending-off ceremony in the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan early on Sept 13. (AFP)

Film loosely based on Salama's own life

'Sheikh Jackson' moonwalks into Toronto Film Festival

TORONTO, Canada, Sept 13, (AFP): Egyptian director Amr Salama pays homage to the late Michael Jackson in his new film "Sheikh Jackson", a tale of how a young imam struggles to reconcile his desire to be a better Muslim with his love for the King of Pop.

The film — which landed a spot as Egypt's Oscar bid for best foreign film Tuesday — is based loosely on Salama's own life as a former orthodox Muslim whose obsession with the flamboyant popstar caused him a crisis of faith.

It takes audiences back to the day the Gloved One died on June 25, 2009, and shows them how it sent a former devotee into a tailspin.

Jackson's death stirs childhood memories in the film's lead character Khaled, making him question what it means to be a man and being true to oneself.

"This film is a turning of the page on so many obstacles in the road (in my life) in terms of identity and faith crises", Salama said in an interview with AFP ahead of the film's Friday premiere at the Toronto Film Festival.

Although many older conservatives and orthodox Muslims in the Middle East may have despised Jackson during his lifetime as "a freak, the guy who changed his color", Salama said he was wonderstruck when he first listened to his music.

"He was a poor black kid who grew up to be one of the most famous people in the world, his music crossed borders", he said.

Salama recalled how the father of a friend who introduced him to Jackson's music "gave him (the friend) hell for liking Michael Jackson".

"My own father was also not happy about me listening to Michael Jackson", he added.

Ignoring their disapproval, Salama said he read and learned everything he could find about Jackson, who influenced his clothes, his hair, and his world outlook (as suggested by song lyrics). Those are Salama's feet doing the moonwalk in the film.

Worships

The film stars Ahmed Malek as a young Khaled who worships Jackson, from his Thriller-era haircut and moon walk to his Bad tour bondage pants.

But he is eventually steered away from the Man in the Mirror by a macho father who fears his son becoming soft, and later by religious mentors who encourage him to preach to "those who dance to the music of the devil" to reject pop culture.

An older Khaled, played by Ahmad El-Fishawi, is torn up inside. "I don't want to be a hypocrite", he says in the film.

"For Muslims, to not walk the talk is a sin", Salama explains.

The writer-director said he hoped to reveal devout Muslims' inner struggle, rather than criticize them as pretenders.

The character Khaled, he notes, "wants to be devoted but he just can't" because of his love of Jackson's music.

How does one juggle these contradictions? "I don't have an answer for that", Salama admits. "That's the question that the film asks, more than answers".

"I think we just need to accept our contradictions and all ourselves", he then offers.

Thirty-five years after Jackson released "Thriller", which went on to become the world's bestselling album of all time, the Toronto Film Festival is also screening a digitally remastered version of John Landis' original music video in 3D, as well as the documentary "The Making of Michael Jackson's Thriller".

Landis himself oversaw the frame-by-frame restoration of short film, with its legendary zombie dance sequence, and featuring Jackson as a walking dead and a werewolf.

The original "Making Of" was conceived to help fund the production of "Thriller" and was shot simultaneously and debuted alongside the music video in 1983.

It took audiences behind the scenes, showing them the movie making process from makeup to choreography to filming at a time when such glimpses were rare.

"I can't tell you how many filmmakers have told me that 'The Making of Thriller' was their first window into how movies are made and inspired them to become filmmakers themselves", Landis said.

Variety

Features



A model pauses on the runway in The Garage at the Ralph Lauren Fashion Show during the New York Fashion Week on Sept 12 in Bedford, New York. (AP) — See Page 19

ARAB TIMES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

BOSTON: A film chronicling the story of Boston Marathon bombing survivor **Jeff Bauman** premiered in the **US** on Tuesday at the hospital where he and others who were injured in the 2013 deadly attack were treated.

Dozens of people attended the screening of "Stronger" at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in **Boston**. The movie is based on Bauman's 2014 memoir of the same name.

The movie stars **Jake Gyllenhaal** as Bauman, who lost his legs in the attack, and "Orphan Black" actress **Tatiana Maslany** as Bauman's then-girlfriend, **Erin Hurley**. Bauman, Hurley and their on-screen counterparts graced a red carpet at the hospital on Tuesday with director **David Gordon Green**, producer **Todd Lieberman** and writer **John Pollono**. (AP)

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LOS ANGELES: **J.J. Abrams** is returning to "Star Wars," and will replace **Colin Trevorrow** as writer and director of "Episode IX," pushing the film's release date back seven months.

Disney announced Abrams return on Tuesday a week after news broke of Trevorrow's departure. After several high-profile exits by previous "Star Wars" directors, Lucasfilm is turning to the filmmaker who helped resurrect the franchise in the first place. Abrams will co-write the film with screenwriter **Chris Terrio**, who won an Oscar for adapting "Argo," and also co-wrote "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice."

As the director of "The Force Awakens," Abrams rebooted "Star Wars" to largely glowing reviews from fans and more than $2 billion in box office. Abrams had said that would be his only film for the franchise, but he's now been pulled back in. (AP)

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LOS ANGELES: The International Documentary Association will give its Courage Under Fire Award to filmmakers and subjects involved with documentaries about the war in **Syria**.

The organization will present the award Dec 9 at its 33rd Annual Documentary Awards at the Paramount Studios backlot in Los Angeles. **Abigail Disney** will receive the Amicus Award; **Lourdes Portillo** will receive the Career Achievement Award; and **Yance Ford** will receive the Emerging Documentary Filmmaker Award.

The Courage Under Fire Award — given from time to time to a filmmaker who demonstrates "extraordinary courage" in pursuit of the truth — will honor both the people who shared their stories in the films and the filmmaking teams behind "City of Ghosts," "Cries From Syria," "Hell on Earth," and "Last Men in Aleppo." (RTRS)



Bauman



Abrams

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LOS ANGELES: **Nicolas Cage** will star in the independent action movie "Primal" as a big-game hunter. Production is scheduled to start on Oct 23 in **Puerto Rico**.

The project was unveiled Tuesday at the Toronto Film Festival, where the Exchange is launching international sales.

"Primal" is the first project for Wonderfilm Media, launched by **Kirk Shaw**, **Daniel Grodnik**, **Jeff Bowler**, and **Bret Saxon** as a finance, development, and production entity based in **Vancouver** and **Beverly Hills**. Grodnik, who has credits on "Heist" and "Bobby," is producing and **Michael Becker** is executive producing.

The film will be directed by **Nick Powell**, who is a veteran stunt coordinator with credits on "The Bourne Identity," "X-Men: The Last Stand," and "Resident Evil." (RTRS)

Film

Strangeness abounds in Franco's latest

Cult of 'The Room' cheers 'Artist'

TORONTO, Sept 13, (Agencies): The spoon-throwing, football-tossing cult of "The Room" was out in full force at the premiere of James Franco's "The Disaster Artist", a making-of movie that earned the blessing of the notorious film's creator Tommy Wiseau.

"The Disaster Artist" premiered at a midnight screening early Tuesday at a raucous "Tommy!"-chanting audience at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film, which Franco directed and stars in as Wiseau, chronicles the creation of one of the most famously bad movies ever made.

But 2003's "The Room" became an object of deep affection for moviegoers who cackle through late-night screenings of the film with a host of rituals. Wiseau, who was greeted by fans like a rock star, told Franco that he was 99.9 percent pleased with "The Disaster Artist". He objects primarily to the way Franco depicts him throwing a football, though Franco claimed Wiseau's 0.1 percent dissatisfaction was inconsistent lighting.

Wiseau hopped around the stage, introducing the cast of "The Disaster Artist" and later claiming that he would one day turn the tables on Franco and direct him in a movie.

"Eventually I will, probably", said Wiseau.

"The Disaster Artist", which A24 will release Dec 1, is in the mold of the B-movie tribute "Ed Wood": a Hollywood tale about a quixotic, perhaps misguided character aspiring to make it in Hollywood. It's based on the 2013 book "The Disaster Artist: My Life Inside The Room, the Greatest Bad Movie Ever Made" by "Room" actor and Wiseau's friend Greg Sestero.

The making of "The Disaster Artist" had its own quirks. Wiseau initially hoped Johnny Depp would play him. Wiseau was on the fence about Franco, who recalled Wiseau telling him in their first conversation, "I've seen your stuff James. You've done some good things and some bad things".

Franco largely stayed in character, shifting between playing Wiseau and directing the film. That meant Franco, with a wig of long black hair, was often directing actors as Wiseau, and in his unique, famously undefined accent. (Wiseau has long maintained he's from New Orleans, but his origins are largely shrouded in mystery.) The experience, said Dave Franco (who plays Sestero), was "as weird as you would expect".

Better

"It just made sense to go Daniel Day-Lewis", Franco said in an interview, chuckling. "Why waste the energy to pull out? I figured hopefully I'll give a little bit better direction than Tommy gave on 'The Room'".

But while "The Disaster Artist" very much plays the tale for laughs, it also has affection for its characters. Franco says Wiseau's "Dostoevskian struggle" is that "he's wrestling to be something he's not".

"Despite what he looks like and sounds like and his age, Tommy thinks that he's James Dean", said Franco.

That was something Franco could understand. Franco, himself, played Dean in a 2001 biopic.

"I have to admit, I relate to Tommy in a lot of ways", said Franco. "He's a dreamer and he willed his movie into being. After everyone told him no, he still made it happened. I can relate to that, and I can even relate to a lot of the madness and the crazy self will run riot that he fell into".

It may sound odd, but inhabiting Wiseau has been a kind of watershed experience for the 39-year-old actor-filmmaker. While Franco had previously made a blizzard of films at once — including a number of more literary adaptations ("Child of God", "As I Lay Dying", "The Sound and the Fury") — "The Disaster Artist" marks a new chapter for Franco in sustained attention and an effort to reach a broad audience as a filmmaker.

"I wasn't trying to do five million projects at one time. I was just focused on the one thing", said Franco. "I said, 'James, you've been doing these little projects for a long time now. Look at ('Disaster Artist' producer and co-star Seth Rogen). He's been able to make movies at the studio level and still make what he wants to make'".

It's just one more unintended consequence of "The Room", the worst movie to ever give so much joy to so many.

James Franco comes to life as the abundantly strange Tommy Wiseau in A24's official trailer for "The Disaster Artist", which premiered Monday at the Toronto Film Festival.

The trailer begins with Wiseau and Greg Sestero (portrayed by Dave Franco) bonding over their dream to make it in Hollywood.

"We'll be famous; we'll show show them", they say.

There are several scenes of Franco yelling "Stella!"; he also attempts to impress the real-life Judd Apatow with a recitation of Hamlet's "To be, or not to be" soliloquy in a restaurant, prompting Apatow to say, "It's not going to happen for you, not in a million years".

"What about after that?" Franco responds.

Franco's Wiseau then sets about making "The Room", which he asserts is a story about an all-American hero named Johnny. "Also, maybe Johnny is vampire, we'll see", he adds.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: A24 and DirecTV have bought **US** rights on the British drama "The Children Act", starring **Emma Thompson**, **Stanley Tucci**, and **Fionn Whitehead**.

"The Children Act" premiered on Sept 10 at the Toronto Film Festival in the Special Presentations section. Directed by **Richard Eyre** from a script by **Ian McEwan** and based on McEwan's novel, the story centers on a high-court judge who finds personal and professional crises colliding when forced to rule in the case of whether a couple who are Jehovah's Witnesses can be permitted to deny a life-saving blood transfusion to their leukemia-stricken 17-year-old son, played by Whitehead.

Thompson's character is married to her work, which has become a problem for her husband, played by Tucci, who announces that he wants to have an affair — resulting in his being kicked out so she can focus on her current case.

People & Places

Music

Kiwi opera diva retires

Robot steals show from Italy top tenor

PISA, Sept 13, (AFP): Italian tenor **Andrea Bocelli**'s voice soars to the rafters of the Tuscan theatre, but all eyes are on the orchestral conductor beside him — a robot with an apparent penchant for Verdi.

The concert in the heart of Pisa is a world first, with two mechanical "arms" conducting live music at the grand finale of the first International Festival of Robotics.

The Swiss-designed YuMi sweeps its baton skywards with one hand, while the other curves around in a caress that spurs on the strings as the operatic "La Donna E' Mobile" ("Woman Is Fickle") reaches its climax.

But music lovers beware: YuMi can conduct set pieces, but cannot improvise, react or interact with the musicians.



Bocelli

"It was extremely difficult to train," says Andrea Colombini, the conductor of the Lucca Philharmonic Orchestra which performed with Bocelli and soprano Maria Luigia Borsi on Tuesday.

YuMi, designed by robotics leader ABB, was taught to mimic Colombini's gestures.

The maestro said the automaton was far more sophisticated than its "rival" Asimo, the white four-foot (1.2-metre) robot designed by Honda which conducted the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in 2008.

"We're not talking about Asimo's limited up-and-down, one-arm movement ... YuMi is extremely flexible and its arms have the same mobility as mine," he told AFP.

YuMi does not stand, however: It sits on a pedestal that gives it the support it needs to move its long arms.

It's not a particularly friendly looking robot, and Colombini acknowledged that they did not get on at first.

"It was not love at first sight. At the start I kept getting wound up because it kept getting stuck, and when the robot gets stuck it takes 25 to 30 minutes to reset it," he said.

"It took a long time," he added: Training YuMi to perform six minutes of music "took 17 hours of work."

Borsi looked apprehensive as she stood in her shocking pink concert gown, waiting for the robot to begin directing the classic soprano aria "O Mio Babbino Caro" ("Oh My Beloved Father") by Puccini.

The effect is somewhat odd: the musicians watch for the first baton stroke and gamely follow it throughout the aria, but the traditional vitality of a human conductor — keeping tempo with the whole body, even through the breathing — is missing.

Bocelli, who is visually impaired, had to remember the tempo YuMi had been taught down to the second.

Any unprogrammed "accelerando" or "rallentando" would have been disastrous, as he had no way to get the conductor to follow his lead.

"There's no way it could replace the sensitivity and emotion of a conductor, because a robot has no soul. It's just an arm, not the brain, not the heart," Colombini said.

Later, when the conductor himself takes to the stage, his whole body sways and thrusts — and the difference is startling.

Also:

WELLINGTON: **New Zealand** opera singer **Dame Kiri Te Kanawa**, hailed as one of the greatest sopranos of the modern age, officially announced her retirement Wednesday at the age of 73.

Te Kanawa has not performed publicly for about a year but told the BBC she did not intend to perform in front of an audience again.

"I don't want to hear my voice, it is in the past," she told the British broadcaster.

"When I'm teaching young singers and hearing beautiful young fresh voices, I don't want to put my voice next to theirs."

Te Kanawa's career spanned more than five decades and included performances at the world's top opera houses, although she is best known as the diva who sang at **Prince Charles** and **Lady Diana**'s wedding in 1981.

"I've had such an amazing career," she said, adding that it had taken her five years "to say the goodbye in my own mind".

Her big break came in 1971 at Covent Garden when she was cast as the Countess Almaviva in **Mozart**'s "The Marriage of Figaro".

She soon found herself among opera's elite, sharing the stage with the likes of **Jose Carreras** and **Placido Domingo**.

She became a household name when performing a Handel aria at the royal wedding, watched by a global television audience of more than 600 million.

"It got me a lot of recognition," she later said. "But it was only a wedding and my job was doing opera at the time, so I wasn't into weddings. I just happened to sing at a very important one."

Te Kanawa was also invited to perform at Diana's funeral in 1997, but declined as she was too upset over the princess' death.

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NEW YORK: Top names in entertainment Tuesday raised millions of dollars for survivors of mega-storms Harvey and Irma, with **Stevie Wonder** and **Beyonce** also urging attention on climate change.

Dubbed "Hand in Hand", the one-hour telethon was broadcast live on all **US** television networks with mega-stars from **George Clooney** to **Justin Bieber** to **Julianne Moore** answering phones to take pledges.

After an hour of performances in New York, **Los Angeles**, **Nashville** and **San Antonio**, comic **Billy Crystal** said the telethon raised $14.55 million with more expected as calls came in.

Apple donated $5 million — with co-host **Stephen Colbert** joking that the figure was the price of the company's new iPhone unveiled earlier Tuesday — and chemical giant Merck announced $1 million, although it was not clear if the amounts were part of the total.

Stevie Wonder opened the evening with a rendition of **Bill Withers**' "Lean on Me" backed by a gospel choir as urged "love" rather than divisions.

Beyonce — in a video message that marks her most visible appearance since giving birth to twins in June — said the disasters caused more sorrow "during a time when it's impossible to watch the news without seeing violence or racism in this country."

"The effects of climate change are playing out around the world every day," she said, mentioning as well deadly monsoon floods in **India**.

While no celebrities overtly attacked President **Donald Trump**, he has pulled the **United States** out of the **Paris** accord on climate change, which experts say is contributing to worsening storms, and last week announced an end to protections for undocumented immigrants who arrived as children.



In this Sept 5 file photo, actress Michelle Pfeiffer poses for photographers at the premiere of the film 'mother!' at the 74th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy. (AP)



Lebanese actor Adel Karam and actress Rita Hayek pose at the prescreening of the film 'The Insult' in Beirut on Sept 12. (AFP)



Wilson



Mars

Variety

MELBOURNE, Australia: A judge awarded **Rebel Wilson** record damages of 4.56 million Australian dollars ($3.66 million) on Wednesday over magazine articles the actress said cost her roles in Hollywood films.

A Supreme Court jury in Australia's **Victoria** state had decided in June the articles claiming she lied about her age, origins of her first name and her upbringing in **Sydney** were defamatory.

Justice **John Dixon** said a substantial award amount was required to "vindicate" Wilson after her reputation as an "actress of integrity was wrongly damaged."

Bauer Media, publisher of the Australian magazines Woman's Day, Australian Women's Weekly, NW and OK, said it was considering the judgment.

The 37-year-old Wilson, best known for the comedies "Pitch Perfect" and "Bridesmaids", was in **London** on Wednesday and her lawyers were unable to immediately talk to her about the decision. (AP)

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LOS ANGELES: **Bruno Mars** will take the stage at **New York**'s famed Apollo Theater for a primetime special set to air on Nov 29. "Bruno Mars: 24K Magic Live at the Apollo" will be broadcast on CBS and is executive produced by the singer along with **Ben Winston**, who said: "For me, Bruno Mars is the greatest performer in the world. To be producing his first television special is a true honor. This will be a special show and a special night."

Though Mars has performed for a large television audience before, his two Super Bowl halftime appearances, for example, this will be his first solo television special. In addition to a performance with Mars' band the Hooligans, the event will also feature never-before-seen stage footage.(RTRS)

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TEMPE, Arizona: The 21-year-old son of actor **Jean-Claude Van Damme** is accused of holding his roommate at knifepoint at their apartment in suburban **Phoenix**.

Tempe police say **Nicholas Van Varenberg** was arrested Sunday night on suspicion of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, unlawful imprisonment, marijuana possession and possession of drug paraphernalia. He's out of jail after posting a $10,000 bond.

Van Varenberg didn't have a lawyer at his initial court appearance, and it's unclear if he has one yet with a Sept 20 preliminary hearing looming.

Court documents released Tuesday say police went to the apartment after receiving reports about loud noise and yelling. (AP)

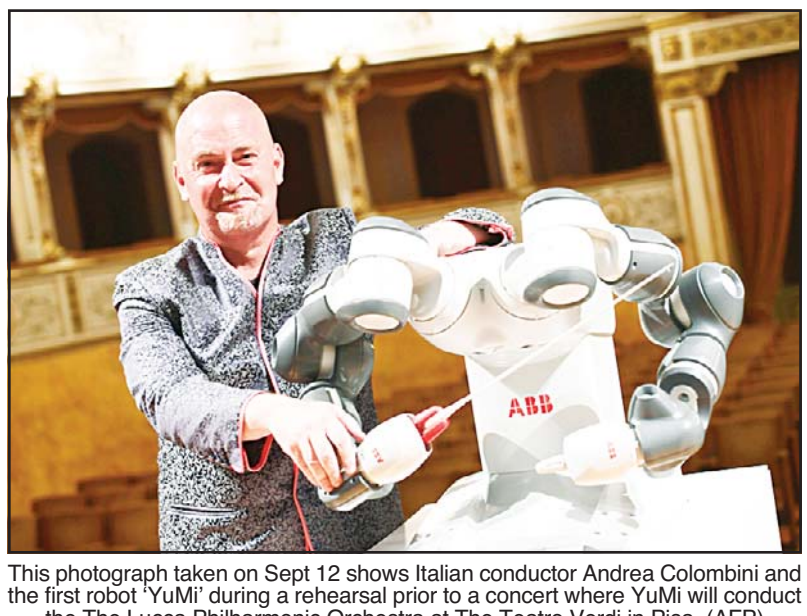
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SPOKANE, Washington: Four members of a Polish death metal band arrested on charges of kidnapping a Washington state woman are also suspected of sexually assaulting her after a concert during a party on the band's tour bus, according to court documents.

The documents made public Monday said the assault by the members of Decapitated happened in the bathroom of the tour bus following the Aug 31 concert in Spokane, Washington.

The band members were arrested Saturday in **Santa Ana**, **California**, for investigation of first degree kidnapping. The four men appeared in court in **Los Angeles** Tuesday and waived extradition to Washington, KABC-TV reported.

Steve Graham, a lawyer for the band members, said in an email that the members of "Decapitated plan to fully fight the allegations that have been brought against them and are confident that their side of the story will be heard." (AP)



This photograph taken on Sept 12 shows Italian conductor Andrea Colombini and the first robot 'YuMi' during a rehearsal prior to a concert where YuMi will conduct the The Lucca Philharmonic Orchestra at The Teatro Verdi in Pisa. (AFP)

Film

Aronofsky's film internationally shrouded in mystery

Pfeiffer returns in 'mother!'

NEW YORK, Sept 13, (Agencies): When Michelle Pfeiffer first read Darren Aronofsky's script for "mother!" she had an understandable initial reaction.

"I thought: What the hell is this?" recalls Pfeiffer.

Aronofsky's film is not in any way typical, nor is the kind of project you'd expect a long-absent actress like Pfeiffer to join as her first big-screen performance in five years. The film, intentionally shrouded in mystery, is a wild and weird odyssey by one of the movies' expert conjurers of dark, surreal dream worlds that suspend its viewers — and often its performers, too — in a vividly atmospheric state of paranoia.

"You don't even know, really, how to talk about it," says Pfeiffer, as if throwing up her hands, in a recent interview.

But one of the many mysteries worth pondering in Darren Aronofsky's allegorical thriller is a simple one: Why don't we see Pfeiffer more often? The good news is that "mother!" represents the start of what may be a kind of renaissance for the 59-year-old actress, whose steely beauty and cool, piercing intelligence remains just as devastating.

"I'm really excited to be back," says Pfeiffer. "Especially having worked with these exciting actors and these directors who I so admire. The most exciting for me is all of these really talented people that I'm able to do movies with."

Along with "mother!" which Paramount Pictures will release Friday, Pfeiffer co-stars in Kenneth Branagh's upcoming, more old-fashioned mystery "Murder on the Orient Express." She has joined the cast of the "Ant-Man" sequel and earlier this year premiered the Sundance Film Festival entry "Where is Kyra?" in which she plays a woman struggling to survive in Brooklyn on her ailing mother's income. She also received an Emmy nomination for her chain-smoking Ruth Madoff in Barry Levinson's HBO movie "The Wizard of Lies."

It's a flurry of activity for Pfeiffer, who says she pulled back partially to focus on family. She and her husband, the TV producer David E. Kelley, who live in northern California, have two children. Now an empty-nester, Pfeiffer has eagerly returned to regular work.

"She wasn't on my mind because she hadn't worked for a while," says Aronofsky. "My casting director mentioned that she was interested in working again. I was immediately excited and interested by the idea of it. It's been a while so I wasn't so sure where she was at. But once we started to talk, it was amazing."

Aronofsky ("Black Swan," "Requiem for a Dream"), long a fan of Pfeiffer, was impressed by her still sharp skills.

Different

"I just wanted to applaud her at different times during the movie because she does things that are so hard to do," he says. "Like those things where someone says something in the moment and you're supposed to react in the moment with surprise or embarrassment and she was doing it take after take."

Jennifer Lawrence stars in the film as the sweet and sensitive wife to Javier Bardem's poet. They live in beautifully natural, labyrinthine house in the country, but they are soon beset by visitors, beginning with a man who shows up at the door (Ed Harris), who's followed by his wife (Pfeiffer) and then others. The movie grows in intensity with the sensation of invasion; Aronofsky conceived it as a kind of allegory for an overrun Mother Earth.

"I have these dreams sometimes," says Pfeiffer. "I'm in some house and I have to be somewhere or I have to do something and I can't get out. I can't find my way out. I know there's some disaster looming ahead and I know it's coming and no one will listen to me. This is like a really, really bad nightmare. It's like your worst nightmare and you can't wake up from it."

After her Oscar-nominated breakthrough role in 1989's "The Fabulous Baker Boys," Pfeiffer became one of the top actresses in Hollywood, stringing together a varied filmography including "Dangerous Minds," "Batman Returns," "The Age of Innocence" and "What Lies Beneath." That made her intimidating to her younger co-star.

"It took me two days to get over her beauty, and to go up to her and say hi," Lawrence told reporters at the Toronto International Film Festival. "She's very normal. She's a mother. She's a very smart woman."

She is also a still-adventurous actress who was willing to go well out of her comfort zone for "mother!" Pfeiffer considers the film "a real leap of faith" since she went in with only a partial understanding of it, along with a director whom she says would sometimes leave the cast in the dark on the finer points of the drama.

Aronofsky's "mother!" — about a woman (Jennifer Lawrence) who lives with her husband (Javier Bardem) on a deserted farmhouse — has generated more debate than any film to debut at this year's Toronto International Film Festival.

The Paramount Pictures release, which opens on Friday, has been shrouded in mystery, and critics are still trying to piece together what it all means. "I wanted to make a film about Mother Nature," Aronofsky told Variety. "So we're working on an allegorical level, where it's dealing with these big symbols."

Fashion

NEW YORK

Style



Naeem Khan

Naersi

Ralph Lauren



Ralph Lauren

Ralph Lauren

Above and below: Models display creations by Ralph Lauren, Naersi, Naeem Khan, Coach and Badgley Mischka during the New York Fashion Week, in New York. (AP/AFP)



Ralph Lauren



Badgley Mischka



Ralph Lauren



Badgley Mischka



Ralph Lauren

NEW YORK: As New York Fashion Week headed to a close, Shayne Oliver, guest designer at Helmut Lang, injected a jolt of energy into the proceedings with a raucous and sexy show that included leather bras of every kind, as in tiny leather "bralettes" and huge, brassiere-shaped handbags. The young designers at Oscar de la Renta seemed to be taking the luxury label in a more casual direction with denim and other relaxed garments. And Carolina Herrera, who showed previously at the Frick Collection, found another stunning venue for her runway show: the Museum of Modern Art.

Helmut Lang

These were not your mother's bras. In reality, they were not anyone's bras that you've ever seen — at least, not yet.

Visiting designer Shayne Oliver showed a raucous audience at the Helmut Lang show just how flexible the concept of a bra can be. Perhaps his most intriguing concoction: the bra bag, worn around the chest, but zippable at the top to form an actual functioning satchel. Of course it was worn outside the clothing — you could wear it underneath, but what would be the point of that?

Then there were all the teensy "bralettes" in black leather: strappy and sexy, sometimes barely covering the intended area — and sometimes, totally not trying.

Oliver, 29, is best known for his provocative streetwear label Hood By Air, which announced it was going on hold earlier this year and that Oliver would be focusing on his gig at Helmut Lang. He was hired by Isabella Burley, the label's "editor in residence", as one of a planned succession of guest designers creating capsule collections. (Lang himself left the label 12 years ago.) This collection was called "Helmut Lang Seen By Shayne Oliver".

"It's been crazy", Burley told reporters backstage of working with Oliver. "But I've loved every minute of it."

The runway show Monday night in SoHo included both women and men, and hardly seemed to differentiate by gender in terms of garments — a man could wear a corset or heels, just as a woman could. The runway was also not reserved for millennials: Kristen Owen, 46, a longtime Lang model, walked here, among other names from the past.

This being Lang, there was a whiff of bondage in many of the ensembles — leather straps and harnesses everywhere — but also an air of playfulness. By the time the techno soundtrack morphed into a finale of Whitney Houston's "I Have Nothing", people in the crowd were whooping with glee. (That crowd was heavy with rappers and music figures like Cardi B, Offset of the rap trio Migos, Lil Yachty, A$AP Ferg and Diplo.)

Many in attendance, of course, were too young to have been fans of Lang himself in his heyday (the Austrian-born designer, now 61, is an artist living on Long Island). But Oliver said backstage that Lang's influence on fashion remains strong.



Coach

Oscar de la Renta

There was a whiff of change at Oscar de la Renta, where new designers Fernando Garcia and Laura Kim presented a whimsical collection featuring casual garments like midriff-baring denim jackets and roomy windbreakers.

It also was what you would call a signature collection — literally. Many of the garments bore the signature, in various forms, of the label's late, legendary founder, de la Renta — either in script, or even in large, sparkly letters spelling out his name.

"We're celebrating him unabashedly," Garcia said backstage.

The designers noted that the only time until now that de la Renta's signature appeared on his clothes was on a gown that Sarah Jessica Parker wore to the Met Gala in 2014. It had been the actress' idea to embroider his signature on the back.

Garcia added that he and Kim had updated the image of de la Renta's signature after looking around and finding that "the signatures he actually left behind were much more legible, and true to his handwriting."

The designers, presenting only their second Fashion Week collection for the label after taking over following the sudden departure of Peter Copping, began their runway show with a series of looks with a paint splatter motif. The theme even extended to the stiletto shoes: the heels looked like the stems of paint brushes.

New techniques used by the label this year included laser-cut leather, Garcia said, along with the denim, part of an effort to expand the clientele and the appeal of the brand.

But there was something for the traditionalists, too: Toward the end of the show came the red carpet-ready gowns that define the brand's image, like strapless gowns in tulle with full skirts and even a ruby-dyed mink coat.

Guests at Monday's show, held at Sotheby's auction house, included Paris Hilton, Nicky Hilton Rothschild and Nicki Minaj. They were all getting a double dose of Garcia and Kim, having attended their show on Friday for the duo's fledgling label, Monse.

Carolina Herrera

Carolina Herrera believes that fashion is "art in movement", and so naturally one of her favorite places to show her clothes is in a museum. In the past, she's taken her show to the stunning courtyard at the Frick Collection, and for this Fashion Week, she secured the sculpture garden at the Museum of Modern Art.

"I've been trying to do it for many years, and at last I could and I am so honored to be here," the designer said before Monday evening's show.

The outdoor courtyard with its bubbling fountains served as the backdrop for Herrera's chic garden party and '80s-inspired collection. (AP)



Pictures taken on June 12, 2017 show the Oriental Desert Express train en route from Oujda to Bouarfa in northeastern Morocco. (AFP)

Morocco tourists make tracks on 'Spectre' train

007's Oriental Express cradle in the desert

BOUARFA, Maroc, Sept 13, (AFP): Edouard Kunz knows timekeeping is important but the former Swiss watch precision mechanic admits that James Bond's Oriental Desert Express in remote eastern Morocco never runs on schedule.

The train, made famous in the 2015 Bond movie "Spectre", trundles tourists between the town of Oujda and the former mining city of Bouarfa along a 350-km-long (215-mile) stretch of desert.

"It takes between eight and 12 hours to make the trip, sometimes even more," says Kunz, 70, who is known as Edi, blaming sandstorms for frequent delays.

His passion for trains put him in the driver's seat more than 10 years ago when he persuaded Morocco's National Office of Railways to let him run a tourist train on a disused railway line.

The track that runs near the border with Algeria was originally built nearly 100 years ago when Morocco was a French protectorate.

It was part of an ambitious project, the Mediterranean-Niger railway, to link the sea to inland Africa.

However, the project was short-lived and, in time, the mines and factories in Bouarfa shut down, until the desert region with its lunar landscapes was rediscovered by Kunz and the location scouts for "Spectre".

Exterior shots of the train making its way through the desert darkness were used in the Bond movie, a star-studded spy thriller with Daniel Craig reprising the role of 007.

One of the most striking sequences in the film depicts a romantic dinner between Bond and a character played by French actress Lea Seydoux that is interrupted by the villain Mr Hinx, played by wrestler Dave Bautista.

The resulting fight between Bond and Hinx in a train carriage has been praised by some critics as one of the best scenes in the whole movie.

The tourist train that Kunz hires from Morocco's national railway operator is not quite as luxurious as the one featured in "Spectre".

Tourists can choose from a first-class, air-conditioned carriage and another that dates back to the 1960s, in which they can open the windows to take in the scenery and snap pictures.

The train moves at a top speed of 50 kms per hour (30 mph), but this can often drop to 10 kph and sometimes the train has to come to a complete halt because of sand on the tracks.

When that happens, workers resort to shovels to get rid of the sand before the train can proceed.

"Some people buy BMWs but I bought myself a train," Kunz says, with a chuckle, recalling how he struggled to make a profit with his desert train project.

In a good year, he says, he makes five to six trips between Oujda and Bouarfa.

On the route to Bouarfa, the first dozen or so kilometres are through a fertile plain, and then the train passes through the Tiouli tunnel.

After that it is mostly desert.

Along the way, passengers see abandoned train stations — and the more unusual sight of a former Roman Catholic church turned into a judo club, near a mosque.

Kunz is hoping to transform one of the abandoned stations into a restaurant, but for the time being dinner is served in the train.

It's that time again!

Registration for CAW/CAW Jrs is now open for members of the Friends of the DAI ONLY.



This season, the fabulous Ms Maha will cover Islamic art motifs: Repeating Geometric Patterns, Storytelling: Words and Pictures, Patterns and Print Making, Jewelry Design, Palm Frond Weaving, Ancient Cities: 3D Collage, New Media: Documenting Amricani, Modern Art, and all aspects of the Annual Play!

CAW/CAW Jrs is for children ages 6 - 12. There are 24 sessions this season, held on Saturdays, 9:30 - 11 AM at the Amricani Cultural Centre. The programme starts 7 October and runs through April. The cost for the programme (for members) is KD25.

Members may register at either of the museum shops or online. If you wish to register online, please email us (education@darmuseum.org.kw) your name, your mobile number, your child's name and age. We will send an invoice to your mobile phone with instructions on how to pay.

There are only 20 spots in the programme and registration will be confirmed upon payment.
Through 16 September, registration is open exclusively to members of the Friends of the DAI.

A flyer of the event

contract bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q 7 5
♥ A K Q J 4
♦ 7
♣ 8 4 3

WEST
♠ J
♥ 10 9 7 6 3 2
♦ K 10 9 4
♣ Q 5

EAST
♠ 4 3
♥
♦ J 8 2
♣ A K J 10 9 7 6 2

SOUTH
♠ A 10 9 8 6 2
♥ 8 5
♦ A Q 6 5 3
♣ —

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	4 NT	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
6 ♦	Pass	7 ♠	Dble

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

A United States team won the women's world championship at the 1984 World Team Olympiad, but not before they were badly mauled on this deal from their match with Japan.

After Gail Moss of the U.S. opened the bidding with one spade, her partner, Jacqui Mitchell, leaped to four notrump (Blackwood). Following East's nuisance bid of six clubs, Moss passed, by partnership agreement indicating that she had either one or three aces.

When Mitchell doubled (thinking that East-West had two aces), Moss ran to six diamonds, strongly suggesting that she actually held either three aces or two aces and a void in clubs.

Backing her judgment and showing full faith and confidence in her partner, Mitchell thereupon bid seven spades, without question an excellent contract. And, under normal circumstances, the grand slam would have been made without difficulty. But fate unluckily intervened when the Japanese East player doubled, conventionally directing West not to lead a club but to lead either a heart or a diamond. So West led the ten of hearts, East ruffed, and the grand slam quickly went down the drain.

At the second table, the Japanese North-South pair conservatively stopped at six spades (with North the declarer), making seven for a score of 1,460 points. Combined with the 200 points gained at the first table, this gave the Japanese a pickup of 1,660 points, a most fortuitous stroke of luck for Japan, which would have lost 750 points if the hearts had not been divided 6-0.

Tomorrow: Keep your eye on the ball.



click

Alcoholics Anonymous: If you know someone who can't stop drinking and would like to help them please check us out and we promise to try to help at www.aaarabia.org There are no fees. This is a genuine public service.

❑ ❑ ❑

Drinking problem?: Friends of Bill W. are available to help. Totally confidential. Email: rohsecretary@gmail.com

❑ ❑ ❑

Narcotics Anonymous: NA can help with addiction problems. Totally confidential: 94087800 English/Arabic.

❑ ❑ ❑

Continued on Page 20

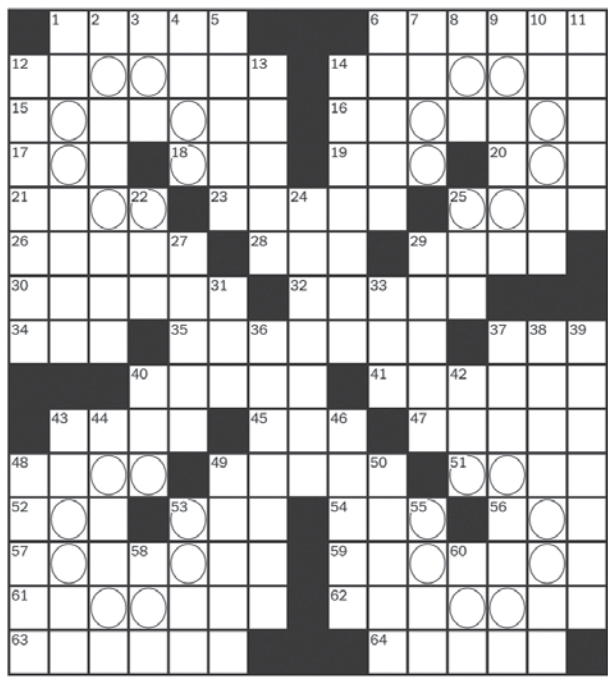
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 A whole bunch
6 How one may be loved
12 Pitiful sorts
14 Rubber ducky, e.g.
15 Ancient region of central Italy
16 Lead-in
17 Universal life force
18 ___-repeated
19 Depressed
20 Lead-in to right or rock
21 Movie theater pioneer Marcus
23 ___ Gong (Chinese spiritual practice)
25 They may come with silver or gold
26 Of an arm bone
28 "___ folly to be wise"
29 Diner purchases, for short
30 Towheaded comics boy
32 Creepy
34 Minneapolis-to-Milwaukee dir.
35 Cowboys may ride off into it
37 Letters of approval
40 Home addition?
41 Middle of the road?
43 Med. insurance plans
45 Mo
47 Seldom-reviewed TV show
48 Sub
49 Brought on
51 Words after "Here" and "Away"
52 The Liberty Tree, for one
53 Misfortune
54 El Orinoco, e.g.
56 Owing
57 The Magi, e.g.
59 One eating you out of house and home?
61 Most svelte
62 Left a burning impression?
63 Comics character with a big nose
64 Cartoonist's aide

DOWN

1 Squalid places
2 Actress Barbeau of the cult classic "Swamp Thing"
3 Something bad to come down with
4 Snow blower brand
5 Leave nothing behind?
6 Composer Copland
7 Hearty entree
8 Org. with the Calder Cup
9 Little of children's literature
10 A whole bunch
11 Nos in Novosibirsk
12 Cut off
13 Occupied, as a table
14 Pretty good grades



PUZZLE BY DEREK BOWMAN AND SARAH KELLER

22 Washed-out
24 Opposite of covers
25 "___ Buttermilk Sky"
27 Fashion photographer Herb
29 Midge, for one
31 "Ain't ___ Sweet"
33 Kind of sleep
36 Like one-star puzzles
37 Place for a poker
38 Female issue
39 Ticked off
40 Jack of "Barney Miller"
42 "Do the ___" (beverage slogan)
43 Bottled up
44 Detective whose first name is Kentaro
46 Roll at a counter
48 Makes sound
49 Equine
50 Cinque + cinque
53 Boohoo
55 Part of the escape route in "Casablanca"
58 Density symbol
60 Jan. honoree

Scratch pad

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

F	A	D			C	A	R	P			S	I	A	M
I	P	O	S		L	I	E	U		T	H	I	N	E
V	E	N	T		O	M	A	R		H	E	I	G	L
E	X	T	O	R	T		L	E	G	A	L	I	S	T
		T	O	E		S	M	E	L	T		I	T	S
T	R	A	L	A	L	A		D	I	S	C	I		
A	O	K		P	I	K	E		M	O	O	I	N	G
I	B	E	T		B	E	B	O	P		T	I	E	R
L	E	T	S	B	E		B	A	S	S		I	R	A
		H	O	Y	L	E		T	E	R	R	I	F	Y
A	P	E		P	E	R	C	H		T	O	I		
L	A	B	R	A	D	O	R		C	A	V	I	A	R
T	R	A	I	T		D	E	M	O		E	I	R	E
A	M	I	S	H		E	D	E	N		D	I	L	L
R	A	T	E			S	O	L	E			J	O	Y

Conceptis Sudoku

The grid must be so completed that every row, column and 3x3 box has every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive

By Dave Green

					6		1	
	6	7		1	4	8		
	1		9				3	7
		8		2			6	
	9						2	
	3			4		5		
2	7				5		9	
		6	7	3		1	8	
5		1						

Difficulty Level ★

Answer to yesterday's puzzle

4	5	8	9	7	1	2	3	6
9	7	3	4	2	6	8	1	5
6	2	1	5	8	3	9	4	7
5	9	6	7	4	8	1	2	3
3	8	2	1	6	9	5	7	4
1	4	7	2	3	5	6	8	9
7	3	9	6	1	2	4	5	8
8	1	5	3	9	4	7	6	2
2	6	4	8	5	7	3	9	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Challenger

By L. Owens Maurer

DIRECTIONS:

Fill each square with a number, one through nine.

■ Horizontal squares should add to totals on right.

■ Vertical squares should add to totals on bottom.

■ Diagonal squares through center should add to total in upper and lower right.

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SOLUTION.

Today's Challenge
Time 3 Minutes
4 Seconds
Your Working Time __ Minutes __ Seconds

7				10
		9		35
			9	33
	8			34
31	26	27	28	34

Yesterday's solution

				16
8	1	4	1	14
9	3	9	6	27
7	2	9	8	26
4	1	3	2	10
28	7	25	17	22

Word by Word

Even (حتى) **Hata**

Even homer sometimes nods.
Hata homeros yokhti ahyanan.

Numbers حتى هو ميروس يخطىء أحياناً

7657 Seven thousand six hundred fifty seven

٧٦٥٧ Sabat alaf wa seto maah wa saba wa khamsoun

Overheard in the Souk

the grapevine

● The weather is getting better each day as the mercury starts to drop. Summer will soon be over and here comes the fall. Though, there is no colourful foliage in Kuwait but a prelude to winter is a refreshing time. As the season changes, the season of allergies is also on!

A pediatrician friend has been busy as a bee this week after parents have been rushing their kids to her clinic with asthma, cold, cough, flu and other allergies brought about by the changing season. Even adults are not exempted from seasonal allergies. Allergies happen but may be prevented. Stay away from the allergens or the stuff that trigger your allergies. A few tips may include staying indoors when levels of pollens are high or very high for those that you're sensitive to; wear a mask; wash your hair at night; ditch the carpet; take antihistamines. Stay healthy and manage your allergy properly!

❑ ❑ ❑

● The season of less traffic on the commute to work is over. Now we tarry along the motorways with phantom jams and accidents to slow us down. A collective shift in our driving habits would go a long way in easing the lags. Too often we give in to the psychology of braking needlessly, step on ours in cases where a release of acceleration would suffice. While many expound on the many ways we can avoid ripples of delay, the optimal way to drive would be with the flow of traffic. Going faster or slower than everybody else creates situations that need to be reacted to by those around you, and the more reactions, the more traffic or accidents.

❑ ❑ ❑

● The threat to grill ministers is continuing as Kuwait's Parliament will soon come back to sessions, but most will target the ministers of social affairs and labour and education and higher education.

For minister of social affairs, her fault, according to her critics, is her appointing or employing expatriates instead of citizens in her ministry and education minister's error is that his inability to make some of the schools ready to enroll students due to lack of teachers even though new academic year has started.

Lawmakers know that expatriates number is more than twice the number of citizens and they also know that expatriates occupy many jobs in the country and thus their demand to not only reduce expat numbers but also stop employing them in government institutions especially fields that can be occupied by citizens.

Some concluded that the expulsion and deportation should not affect the expatriates who are productive for the country rather than the unskilled ones and those who violate residency law.

Tongues Way

'Cyber Security Zone' aims to curb excessive cellphone use by young people

Rogue Korean child-monitoring app is back: experts

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 13, (AP): A South Korean child-monitoring smartphone app that was removed from the market in 2015 after it was found to be riddled with security flaws has been reissued under a new name and still puts children at risk, researchers said Monday. The app "Cyber Security Zone" is part of government efforts to curb what authorities consider excessive cellphone use by young people. Parents are required by law to install monitoring software on smartphones for all children 18 and under.

The app is almost identical to a previous system, "Smart Sheriff", which left children's private information vulnerable to hackers, according to internet watchdog Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto. Both were developed under the auspices of MOIBA, the industry association for South Korean cellphone service providers.

"The flaws in the apps open the door to possible breaches of sensitive information including passwords, phone numbers, and other user data", Citizen Lab said in a statement. "Smart Sheriff" was one of a family of apps intended to monitor children's online behavior. Some, like Smart Sheriff, act as filtering or blocking tools, while others send alerts to parents if children swear or talk about sex or bullying.



In this May 15, 2015 file photo, a promotional banner of mobile apps that block harmful contents, is posted on the door at a mobile store in Seoul, South Korea. (AP)

The apps have raised privacy activists' hackles, but experts have also been scathing about their lack of security. Cure53, a German auditing firm, said in 2015 that Smart Sheriff was "fundamentally broken".

Citizen Lab and Cure53 now say the app appears to have been rebranded as "Cyber Security Zone" — the equivalent of putting a fresh coat of paint on a dangerous old clunker.

"Users are being misled", said the Citizen Lab report.

MOIBA denied the two systems were the same and an official of the group said a review by the government's Korean Internet & Security Agency found security for "Cyber Security Zone" satisfactory. "We cannot agree to the opinion that the application was not developed with security in mind", said the official, Noh Yong-lae.

Noh said MOIBA cut ties with the developer of "Smart Sheriff" and hired another company to update and develop apps.

KISA officials who looked at the Citizen Lab report said their agency's audit failed to catch at least one security lapse: the app's developer had not encrypted a key to the password. That stemmed from the app's design.

"They should not have built the app this way", said Kim Chan-il, a KISA manager. He said the government and MOIBA should make sure to hire developers who pay attention to security and have enough time to build an app.

An audit by KISA "does not guarantee security against all weaknesses", Kim said. Rates of smartphone and internet use in South Korea are among the world's highest. The government operates filters to block access to pro-North Korean websites and material deemed pornographic.

South Korean authorities believe monitoring and censoring children's smartphone use is part of the state's duty to protect teenagers against harmful content such as pornography.

There is broad public support for the government to stop online behavior that is deemed to be an addiction. The government spends public money to help users break habits of excessive computer gaming and internet use.

The backlash to "Smart Sheriff" prompted the government to ease enforcement by proposing a bill in parliament that would allow parents to opt out of installing a monitoring device.

The proposal "shows the government acknowledges its original position was wrong, but it's not enough", said Kelly Kim, general counsel at OpenNet Korea, a civic group, who co-authored the Citizen Lab report. "The mandate is unconstitutional and should be abolished".

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10 things you might not know about

Georgia



1. Tongue twister

Spoken Georgian is like no other language you are likely to hear. It belongs to its own ancient linguistic group unlike any other language spoken outside the region. It includes rare sounds that many visitors may never have heard before. Some consonants, for example, are pronounced from the back of the throat with a sudden guttural puff of air. Georgian has its own 33-letter alphabet thought to be based on the sort of Aramaic spoken in the time of Jesus. To the untutored eye, the letters look very much alike. A squiggle too far and your "k" can easily turn into a "v" or a "p". But even without understanding it, Georgian writing is beautiful, a myriad of theatrical swirls and flourishes. Very fitting to a country of dramatic personalities.

2. Georgia isn't called Georgia

At least, not by Georgians. They call their country Sakartvelo. The origins of the country's name in English are obscure. One theory points to the Middle Ages when Christian crusaders swept through the region on their way to the Holy Land. At that time, it was part of the Persian Empire and the people here were known as "Gurj". They were also devotees of St George. Theory has it that the crusaders made the connection and named the country Georgia. These days, there's no mistaking the link to St George. A golden statue of the saint slaying a dragon dominates Tbilisi's central square. He is also Georgia's patron saint and the national flag featuring his red cross on a white background is everywhere.

3. Where's Uncle Joe?

Go to any flea market in Georgia and you're likely to stumble across a moustachioed face looking out at you amid the bric-a-brac. Sixty years after his death there's still a market for portraits of Joseph Stalin, the Georgian-born ruler of the former Soviet Union. As Georgia's most famous son, attitudes here towards "Uncle Joe" are complicated. After independence, many Stalin statues were torn down but now some are returning to town squares. Some older Georgians revere him as a strong leader, who defeated Hitler, and are proud that tiny Georgia produced someone who had such an impact on world history. But more often he's viewed as a tyrant responsible for brutal purges of his own people.

4. High mountains

What's the highest mountain range in Europe? The Alps? Wrong. It is the Caucasus Mountains marking the border between Georgia and Russia. While the highest peak is in Russia, Georgia lays claim to the second highest, Shkara, which at 5,193m (17,040 ft) beats Mont Blanc by nearly 400m (1,312 ft). These dramatic mountains, with their terrifying hairpin roads and hidden villages cut off at winter, are the stuff of legend. In Greek mythology they were one of the pillars holding up the world. And it was here that Zeus tied up Prometheus, to have his liver eaten by eagles. Today they are increasingly becoming a destination for climbers, walkers or skiers looking for adventure...



Stylish bags and durable shoes

Shoe Mart unveils fun, exciting ways to get 'Back to School'



'Back to School' collection

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: Besides the conventional formal and sports shoes that every school-going kid will need, Shoe Mart, the region's leading name in footwear and accessories, has rolled out an impressive range in 'Back to School' essentials for the upcoming academic year.

A range of fun designs, comfortable footbed and durable shoes for both boys and girls, create a much-needed statement to otherwise mundane looking silhouettes. Bearing in mind functionality as well as style quotient, the latest collection has your kids' favourite Barbie, Disney and Marvel characters that will make them excited to head out for school!

The range for girls is an eclectic mix of pretty insoles and silhouette embellishments in velcro straps, slip-ons and buckled shoes. Pretty mary janes in velcro straps are here to provide easy dressing during those busy mornings whereas, slip-on shoes with simple and dainty details have been designed especially for your choosy preteens to wear. Elevating the style quotient, glitter-strewn uppers, bows and floral imprints on formal black shoes will leave your princesses spoilt for choice. Printed insoles with Barbie, Disney Princesses, Anna & Elsa of Frozen and the all-time BFF, Minnie Mouse make for a rather attractive padding to put their feet in, allowing a sense of comfort and style from within.

Newest in the squad are Hello Kitty shoes and some adorable animal designs by Brazilian brand, Puket, that screams nothing but fun, cuteness and of course, fashion. Light-weight and flexible soles have been tailored to ensure roomy interiors and comfort for growing and active feet. The sports collection too has black and white shoes with velcro straps and cushioned uppers for breath-easy wear and comfort. Curated bearing in mind comfort as well as need for style by little fashionistas, the new 'Back to School' collection is what every girl wants to be seen in. Smart and crisp is the name of the game when it comes to the Boy's collection. The traditional black shoes get an update with treated uppers and grippy soles for added comfort and ease of walking — while shoes with velcro straps are here to give busy moms more time to make hearty breakfast for little juniors as they independently prepare themselves for school. Boys are sure to tread along with some action-packed fun as superheroes like Captain America and Iron Man foray into the year's collection. White and coloured sport shoes flaunt a combination of tailored patterned designs for active P.E. days whereas black formals have sleek finishing for little gentleman in the making.

Shoe Mart's 'Back to School' collection has international brands like Disney, Marvel, Mattel and Hello Kitty who have curated character-full silhouettes to woo little schoolers.

Whereas, sportsters like Puma, Reebok and Skechers have lined up a comfort-driven range in school footwear essentials. Do check out the all new 'Back to School' collection of bags and shoes that are available across all stores in 'Get your hands on the Back-to-School collection'; do visit Shoe Mart at any of the Centrepoint stores located at Al Rai, Avenues, Salmiya, Fintas, Jahra, Fahaheel, Sulaibhikhat, Kuwait City, Khaitan and Hawally.



A photo from the event

Innovative banking solutions offered

Warba Bank engages in 'Open-Day' activities at the State Audit Bureau

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: In order to achieve better and more direct communication with various segments of Kuwaiti society in all sectors, Warba Bank, the best investment and best corporate consultancy Bank in Kuwait, is participating in an "Open-Day" activities organized by the Public Relations Department at the State Audit Bureau.

From Sept 10 to 14, Warba Bank professional staff will be at the Audit Bureau over a period of 5 days to provide employees and visitors with a clear idea of Warba Bank's flexible, customized and tailored financing products, promotions and solutions. They will also provide a detailed explanation of the latest services and marketing campaigns launched by Warba Bank, which provide customers with a lot of benefits and unlimited features. These will serve as great attractions for customers being Shari'ah-compliant.

Warba Bank's participation in these activities affirms its commitment to customers and all segments of the society by being present in various institutions and agencies in the State of Kuwait to introduce its products and services to get closer and to meet all their needs and aspirations.

Warba Bank strives to provide its customers with all new and innovative products and services to satisfy their expectations. Warba Bank also endeavors to provide the best financing solutions that cover all customers' needs by collaborating with strategic partners for customers best interest.

For more information about Warba Bank's latest services, products and offers, customers are encouraged to visit any of our 12 branches across the State of Kuwait, visit our website (www.warbabank.com), or call the Customer Call Centre at 1825555 (available 24/7).



Photo of Small Space collection

Thoughtful solutions for homes

Pottery Barn introduces its 'small space' Fall collection

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: Pottery Barn, a member of the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. portfolio of brands, announced the expansion of its product assortment by launching a new Fall 2017. The collection will debut furnishing pieces that are designed to be size-conscious, offering the perfect solution for smaller living spaces, while maintaining the high quality classic designs Pottery Barn is known for to appeal to an array of lifestyles at an accessible price.

Potter Barn General Manager said: "We are aware that people have different tastes when it comes to living choices and home décor. As such, we released our new Fall 2017 collection to celebrate our customers' diversity and need for cozier and smaller home spaces, to enable them to enjoy the classic handmade craftsmanship Pottery Barn is recognized for, with smarter options and greater value."

Standout designs include the SoMa Sofa Collection designed for compact spaces and flexible use, the mango wood Alice Gateleg Table with extendable leafs and built-in shelving that creates an at-home bistro vibe, and the iron and acacia wood Dublin Stacking Simple Storage Unit; the perfect furniture to stack all your favorite home decor pieces in a cozy setting.

While adding soul and warmth to the home, the Small Space Collection reflects the brand's continuous effort to evolve its designs and product assortment, while staying true to its global image of craftmanship and high-quality materials. Pottery Barn is a conscious brand that focuses heavily on four main areas: creating innovative designs, giving back to the earth and their communities, offering top-notch services to their customers and creating enduring, high-quality products.

The collection is available exclusively at the Pottery Barn stores across the Middle East in Kuwait, KSA, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Bahrain and Lebanon.

To learn more about the Small Space Collection at Pottery Barn, follow @PotteryBarnMENA on Instagram or Facebook and visit the website at www.PotteryBarn.me

Bank enhances communications with special needs customers

AUB holds training program for employees

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: Continuing its on-going efforts to enhance communications with special needs customers who have special hearing or speech needs, Ahli United Bank has organized a specialized training program on sign language for its employees. The program, which will last two weeks and is being held from Sept 10 to 25 at the Bank's new training center at its Mishref branch, will be delivered by Dr Najat Mokhtar, a translator and expert in sign language in Kuwait.

The program is part of a series of special programs on sign language started by AUB last year demonstrating the Bank's keen desire to provide continuous training to its employees on sign language to guarantee the best banking services for special needs customers with hearing or speech impairment while communicating with the Bank's employees.

About these programs, Amer Najem, Head of Branches at AUB, said: "The present program complements the series of sign language programs started by Ahli United Bank last year with the aim to help our valued customers who have special hearing or speech needs to perform their banking transactions without the assistance of a sign language translator. The program is part of AUB's continuous efforts to provide high quality personalized banking services to its special needs customers. By implementing the series of programs, the Bank ensures that its branches are ready and equipped to serve these customers and to help them complete their banking transactions smoothly and efficiently and in accordance with their individual personal needs."

Najem explained, "Through having staff with knowledge of sign language readily available at many of our branches the Bank underscores its continuous development and its deep commitment to provide the highest quality of banking services to all segments of society, with particular emphasis on individuals with special needs, in line with the Bank's social responsibility and its role in facilitating the assimilation of special need individuals within society."

For more information on AUB's products and services, customers are invited to visit any of the Bank's branches, call 'Hayakom', the Bank's telebanking service at 1812000 or visit Bank's website on www.ahliunited.com.kw.



Dr Najat Mokhtar during training program on sign language for AUB employees.





Photos from the event

IAK celebrates Eid and Onam 'Thumbapoonilavu 2017'

Idukki Association Kuwait (IAK) celebrated Eid & Onam cultural program 'Thumbapoonilavu 2017' at St Alphonsa (SMCA) Hall, Abbassiya on Sept 1, 2017. The functions started with children's coloring & drawing competition at 9: 30 am. More than 50 children participated in it and Preeth Jose coordinated the competition.

The cultural event started with a colorful procession including traditional 'Thalapoli', 'Chendamelam' & 'Pulikali'.

IAK President Biju P. Anto presided over the public meeting while General Secretary Mathew Areepparampil delivered the welcome note. Mahesh P. Iyer (Smart Indian School Principal) inaugurated the function, addressed the gathering and he sung two songs as well. This drew a big round of applause from the packed crowd.

Eternity International Travels & Tourism's representative Thomas, IAK Vice-President Joseph Varghese Makkollil, Advisory Board chairman Jiji Mathew and Eid and Onam cultural program's General Convener Thomas V. Chacko felicitated the meeting. IAK Treasurer Jomon Jacob extended the vote of thanks. Memento for the main sponsor — Eternity International Travels & Tourism presented by IAK president Biju P. Anto to Thomas.

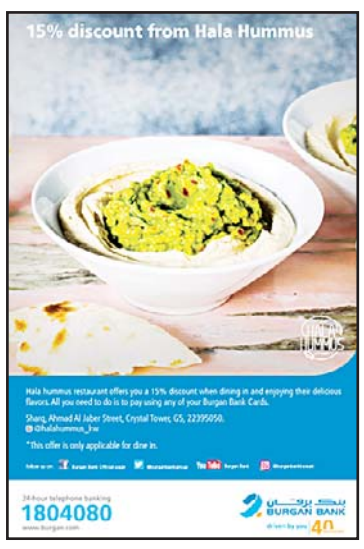
After the public meeting there were various cultural programs performed by IAK members which include Thiruvathira, Oppana, Vallumkali, skits and group dances. The cultural programs was convened by Benny Agustine

Instrumental music from members and Ganamela, Cinematic dances, mimics & magic shows from Vismaya Music band made the function as a classic event. A delicious 'Onasadya' served under the supervision of Food Committee convener Bino Joseph and team.

click

Continued from Page 18

Cancer online support group: If you are Cancer patient or family member fighting with this deadly disease, come join our online support group. Best way of dealing with this disease is providing support and share our experience with each other. There are lot of things which even doctors can't tell so be member of this website and start sharing your experiences which may help others. October is recognized as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM). The primary purpose is to promote self examination and screening mammography as the most effective way to save lives by detecting breast cancer at early stage. For more information visit: http://fightingwithcancer.webs.com/



Burgan Bank clients get 15 pct off at Hala

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: As part of its ongoing commitment to enhancing customers' every day experience, Burgan Bank is pleased to announce its latest offer, bringing distinct advantages to its Customers. The new deal provides a 15% discount on dining at popular Arabic restaurant, Hala Hummus.

Located at the prestigious Crystal Tower in Kuwait City, the up-and-coming restaurant specializes in hummus dishes and dips, also serving a great variety of breakfast items along with fresh and savory wraps, and varied salads.

To avail of the new offer, Burgan Bank customers can dine in and pay their bills using any of Burgan Bank debit or credit cards to enjoy the 15% discount on all menu items.

To find out more about Burgan Bank's latest offers, or any of its products and services, customers can visit any of the bank's branches, or contact the call center on 1804080.

Latest

Q8BBall Season 13: Q8BBall is beginning our 13th season with Boys U13 (ages 10-13) and U17 (ages 14-17). We train three times a week and play regular games throughout the year with schools and clubs. In June 2018, we plan to travel for camp and tournaments in the US. Contact Coach T 97128884 for information.

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Indian Embassy notice: Indian nationals are issued Emergency Certificates (EC) to facilitate their one-way travel to India due to urgency or deportation, under the circumstances of loss of passport or non-retrieval of passport from their sponsors in Kuwait. Since it is illegal to hold two travel documents in India at the same time, the concerned passport has to be cancelled before an Emergency Certificate (EC) is issued to an Indian national. At times, Indian nationals who are either detained or due for deportation may not have their passports with them. They apply for travel documents (Emergency Certificate) either directly or through Kuwait Police. In such cases, ECs are issued to them after cancelling their passports. However, in certain cases, they recover their passports later and travel on those passports which already stand cancelled in data available with immigration authorities in India. These passports are immediately seized by Immigration authorities in India. This results in much harassment and inconvenience to these Indian travelers, whose passports are seized. They are also liable to pay penalties as per the law.

Indian Embassy advises all Indian nationals that if an EC is issued to anyone of them, that implies that his/her passport has been cancelled and that he/she should travel only on the EC issued to him/her.

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Chess coaching, round robin: Registrations are open for chess coaching and the summer round robin Challenger Series. Send your name Civil ID no., mobile number, age, rating to saviosgomes@gmail.com with CCR in the e-mail subject. No entry fee.

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Invitation to Grand Mosque: The Visits Department is pleased to invite

Continued on Page 21

'No doubt Trump team intersected with Russia'

Clinton releases tell-all memoir on 2016 presidential campaign

NEW YORK, Sept 13, (Agencies): Hillary Clinton, who on Tuesday released her tell-all memoir about the 2016 presidential campaign, said she has "no doubt" that Donald Trump's associates helped Russia interfere in the US election.

Last year's failed Democratic nominee told USA Today newspaper that there "certainly was an understanding of some sort" — and direct communication — between Trump's campaign officials or associates and Russia.

"There's no doubt in my mind that there are a tangle of financial relationships between Trump and his operation with Russian money," she said in the interview published hours before she kicked off her first book-signing for the memoir, "What Happened."

"And there's no doubt in my mind that the Trump campaign and other associates have worked really hard to hide their connections with Russians."

The Trump campaign's links to Russia are under investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller and by multiple congressional committees.

Clinton's assertions in several interviews coinciding with the book launch amplify a core message of her campaign confessional: that a series of external forces conspired to prevent her from becoming the nation's first woman president.

"There were all of these outside forces coming at me right until the very end," she told National Public Radio.

Among them: the FBI's relentless investigation of her emails, and the announcement by then-director James Comey, just 11 days before the election, that the bureau was re-opening its probe into her use of a private account and server while secretary of state.

"After the Comey letter, my momentum was stopped," Clinton told NPR.

"My numbers dropped, and we were scrambling to try to put it back together, and we ran out of time."

Respect

Clinton also lashed out at her progressive rival Bernie Sanders, whom she felt refused to fully back her general election campaign.

"I didn't get anything like that respect from Sanders and his supporters. And it hurt," she told Pod Save America, an internet podcast.

Clinton might be finished as a presidential candidate following her November loss, but she is not going away quietly.

Her 15-stop book tour is intended not only to drum up sales but perhaps burnish Clinton's standing as a prominent figure in US political life.

In her memoir the 69-year-old assumes her share of responsibility for her stunning defeat — "My mistakes burn me up inside," she writes of her topsy-turvy campaign.

But the former first lady and political survivor, who in a quarter century in public life rarely gave Americans a personal peek behind her professional veneer, shows a vulnerable side in her book as she describes her post-campaign funk.

She admits that not a day goes that she doesn't think about why she lost, and "the aching sense that I let everyone down."

"It's going to be painful for quite a while," Clinton writes.

"But I'm not going to sulk or disappear. I'm going to do everything I can to support strong Democratic candidates everywhere."

She does not hold back in her criticism of Trump, branding her billionaire nemesis as an incompetent, unworthy, sexist "liar" in her book.

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Clinton offers a personal reckoning of her election loss: how she was expecting an easy victory but was "shell-shocked" on election night; how she refused antidepressants and therapy, but drank her fair share of "Chardonnay;" and how she sought refuge in her family.

But the prospect of the twice-defeated Clinton — first by Barack Obama in the 2008 Democratic primaries, then to Trump last year — very publicly foisting her suggestions on how to move the political debate forward has made some Democrats uncomfortable.

Despite some nudging by those in her party to exit the stage, Clinton makes clear she is keen to conduct an autopsy on the 2016 election.

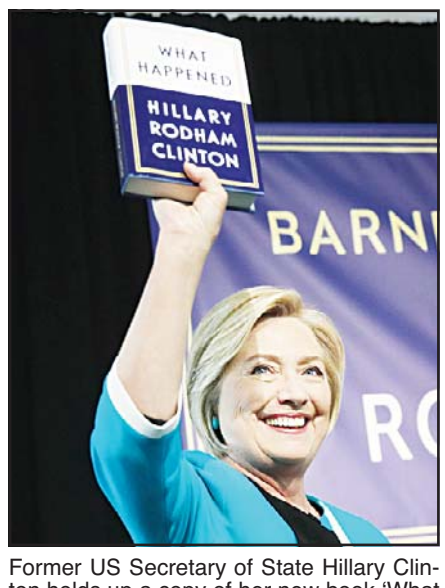
"People are tired. Some are traumatized" and others want to keep the focus on the investigation into Russia's election interference," she writes.

"I get all that. But it's important that we understand what really happened," she adds. "Because that's the only way we can stop it from happening again."

The White House is accusing former campaign rival Hillary Clinton of "propping up book sales with false and reckless attacks."

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders says she's unsure if President Donald Trump will be reading "What Happened," Clinton's account of the 2016 campaign. She says the president is "pretty well-versed on what happened."

Clinton's book was released on Tuesday.



Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton holds up a copy of her new book 'What Happened' at a book signing event at Barnes and Noble bookstore, on Sept 12, in New York City. (AFP)

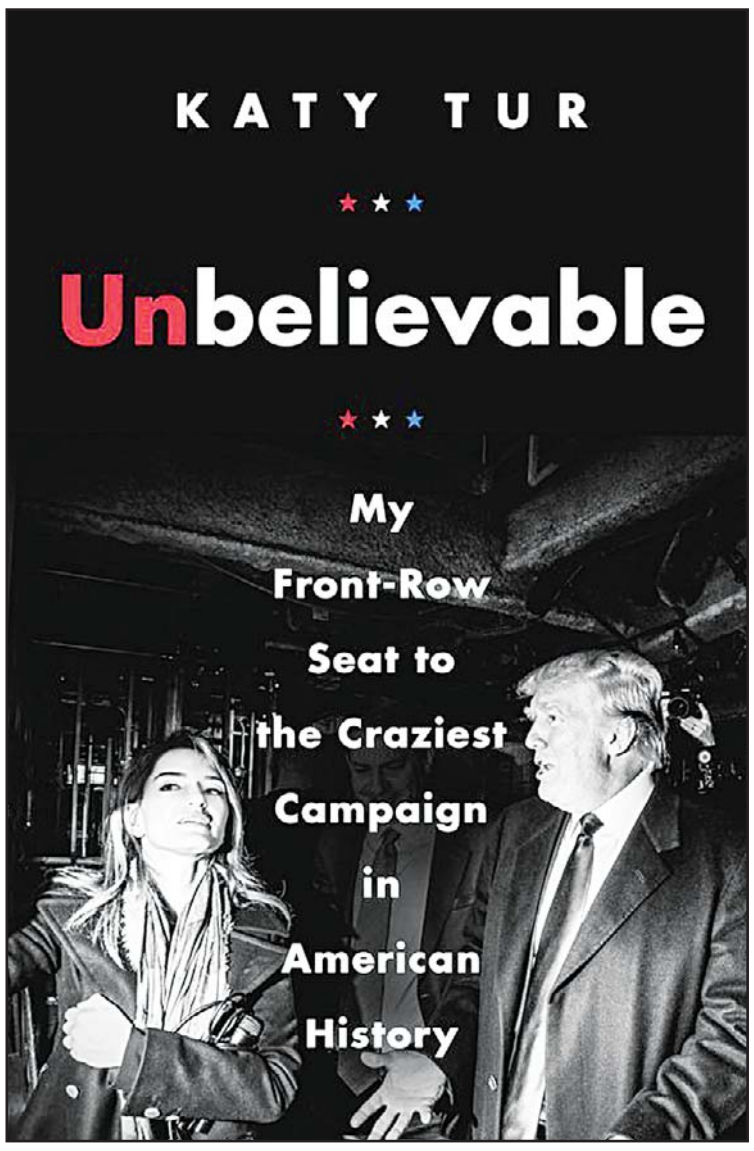
Sanders says Clinton "ran one of the most negative campaigns in history" and says it's "sad" the last chapter of her public life will be defined by selling books with "false and reckless attacks." Sanders did not elaborate or offer any specifics.

"Whether or not he is going to read Hillary Clinton's book, I am not sure, but I would think that he is pretty well versed on what happened," Sanders told reporters on Tuesday. "And I think it is pretty clear to all of America. I think it is sad that after Hillary Clinton ran one of the most negative campaigns in history, and lost, and the last chapter of her public life is now going to be defined by propping up book sales with reckless and false attacks. And I think that's a sad way for her to continue."

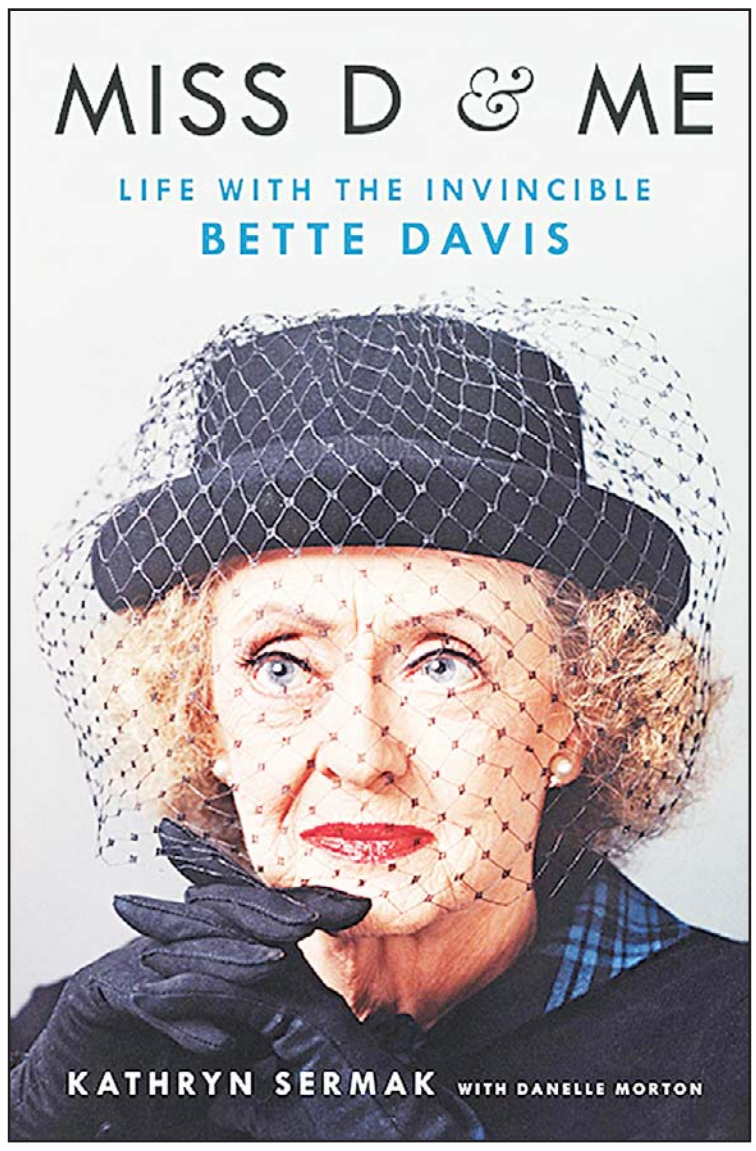
Clinton's book "What Happened" was published on Tuesday, and in an interview she gave to USA Today, she said, "There certainly was communication and there certainly was an understanding of some sort" between associates of Trump and Russians.

In the book, Clinton runs through mistakes she made, but also pins blame on her surprise loss to the media's fixation with her email server, James Comey's late-October decision to reopen his investigation, and Russian meddling in the campaign.

At the press conference, Sanders also said Trump was "100% right in firing James Comey." Trump's former chief strategist, Steve Bannon, told Charlie Rose on "60 Minutes" that Trump's decision to fire Comey was the "worst mistake in modern political history."



This cover image released by Dey Street shows 'Unbelievable: My Front Row Seat to the Craziest Campaign in American History', by Katy Tur. (AP)



This cover image released by Hachette Books shows 'Miss D and Me: Life with the Invincible Bette Davis' by Kathryn Sermak and with Danelle Morton. (AP)

Memoir is bittersweet farewell to Bette Davis

A view of 'unbelievable' Trump campaign

By Will Lester

'Unbelievable: My Front-Row Seat to the Craziest Campaign in American History' (Dey Street), by Katy Tur.

The presidential campaign of Donald J. Trump seemed unlikely to gain traction at first. But the candidate skillfully stirred his voters by boasting of his own skills and vilifying many perceived opponents, from Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton to immigrants, to trade policies and especially, to the news media.

And few members of the news media got more attention from Trump than NBC reporter Katy Tur, who attracted his friendly attention and then, harsh attacks.

"Unbelievable," her memoir of the Trump campaign, recalls many events that are well known by now — his call for a Muslim ban, his debate with parents of a Muslim US soldier killed in Iraq, his ridiculing of a Miss Universe two decades ago, his defense of the size of his manhood during a debate, the "Access Hollywood" videotape from 11 years earlier where he boasted he could grab a woman by her private parts. That was followed by a parade of women accusing him of that sort of behavior.

Trump bulled past critics with his determined campaigning and became the Republican nominee, and then, president.

Through all the uproar, Trump repeatedly told the crowds that he will be the best leader ever, best negotiator of trade deals, best jobs president and so on.

"He is the living embodiment of the old maxim that if you say something often enough, people will believe it," she writes.

But her book — a quick and enjoyable read — is at its best when it retells what it is like to be a member of the news media repeatedly singled out by name in front of an angry crowd as part of a group described as "disgusting" and "liars."

The chapters switch between key points in the campaign and Election Day, enhancing the feel of chaos that must have been a big part of covering the Trump campaign.

While Tur's job would seem like the dream assignment, she recounts the difficulties of meeting deadlines, frantic travel and competing for a crazy rush of stories while fending off attacks from Trump and his crowds of supporters.

"This job is hell," she writes. "On relationships. On your body. On your mind."

In his dealings with Tur, Trump is alternately upbeat, friendly, even flirtatious, then turns on her when she reports something he doesn't like.

When Trump unleashes on her at a public rally, the crowd reacts quickly. "They turn all at once, a large animal, angry and unchained," she writes.

After one harsh critique: "They turn as one to boo at us in unison. Six thousand Trump supporters railing against 30 or so journalists — caged in the center of the arena like a modern-day Roman Coliseum."

His attacks on the media and what he calls "fake news" continue to this day.

Tur saw the potent mix of Trump's determined and forceful campaigning and how he tapped into the raw anger of the big crowds that filled his rallies.

"Inside a Trump rally, these people are unchained. They can yell and scream and say the things they never would say on the outside," she writes. Plenty of the screaming was aimed at her.

An advance staffer once assured her not to worry: "Aside from Trump, you're the most watched person in the room. The Secret Service always has eyes on you."

After months of following his campaign, she began to suspect that many were underestimating Trump's potential in the election.

When FBI Director James Comey announced just over a week before Election Day that he was reopening the Clinton email investigation, Tur told a colleague her take on the dramatic development.

"He's going to win," she said. "It's over. He's going to win."

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"Miss D & Me: Life with the Invincible Bette Davis" (Hachette Books), by Kathryn Sermak with Danelle Morton

Bette Davis battled studio bosses, husbands and rivals during her long acting career, establishing a tough persona in real life to match her enduring Hollywood image. She would need all that strength when she faced illness in her final years, knowing that she could achieve a dark victory by meeting death on her terms.

Her personal assistant during much of that time, Kathryn Sermak, depicts a lioness in winter in her memoir, "Miss D & Me: Life With the Invincible Bette Davis." The actress, in her 70s, still showed some bite in dealing with family feuds and the demands of stardom even as she suffered from cancer and a stroke.

Davis (1908-89) found solace in activity, especially acting. "People will leave you," she told Sermak more than once, "but your work will always stand by you." She wrote another book and, amazingly, appeared on camera a few more times, most notably for "The Whales of August" in 1987.

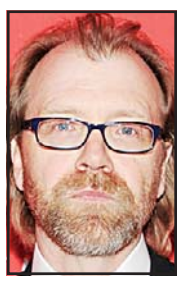
Sermak had come into Davis' life in 1979, a 22-year-old ingenue hired for the summer who was to learn how an aging movie star lived — this particular movie star, anyway. Davis accommodated her celebrity by pleasing fans and shrugging off criticism. (AP)

Saunders favorite to win

Auster tops Man Booker Prize shortlist

LONDON, Sept 13, (Agencies): US author Paul Auster tops the shortlist for Britain's prestigious Man Booker Prize published Wednesday, one of six books that organisers said "collectively push against the borders of convention".

The 70-year-old, nominated for "4321", is up against two other Americans — short story writer George Saunders, for his first full-length novel "Lincoln in the Bardo", and debut writer Emily Fridlund with "History of Wolves".



Saunders

British author Ali Smith makes the shortlist for the fourth time with "Autumn", while British-Pakistani writer Mohsin Hamid makes his second appearance with "Exit West".

Briton Fiona Mozley, 29, is the youngest nominee with her first book, "Elmet". The Man Booker is the world's most prestigious English-language literary award and the winner is guaranteed a huge increase in global sales that dwarfs the £50,000 (55,400 euros, $66,400) prize.

"With six unique and intrepid books that collectively push against the borders of convention, this year's shortlist both acknowledges established authors and introduces new voices to the literary stage," said Baroness Lola Young, who chairs the judging panel.

"Playful, sincere, unsettling, fierce: here is a group of novels grown from tradition but also radical and contemporary.

The winner will be announced on Oct 17 in London. Previous winners of the prize, launched in 1969, include Ian McEwan, Iris Murdoch and Salman Rushdie.

Saunders is favorite to win the prestigious Man Booker Prize for fiction with his novel of the afterlife, "Lincoln in the Bardo."

British bookmakers Ladbrokes and William Hill made Saunders the front-runner among six finalists announced Wednesday for the 50,000-pound ($66,000) prize. The novel is set in a Washington graveyard in 1862, where President Abraham Lincoln visits the body of his 11-year-old son.

Also:

NEW YORK: Angie Thomas' debut novel, "The Hate U Give," a story of police violence that has become one of the year's top-selling works for young people, was among the nominees announced Tuesday for the National Book Awards.

The National Book Foundation released a long list of 10 books, several with socially conscious story lines, in the young people's literature category. Over the next three days, the foundation will announce long lists for poetry, nonfiction and fiction. Short lists of five come out Oct 4 and winners will be revealed during a Nov 15 ceremony in New York City.

Food

Grandma's classic dish

Spaghetti & meatballs 'tweaked' to lighten it

By Melissa d'Arabian

Washington, Spaghetti and meatballs was the classic dish I ate at Grandma's house growing up: She had her all-day recipe that filled her creaky house with heady aromas that built anticipation as meatballs simmered in sauce on the stove.

The fact that she was 100 percent first-generation German — she emigrated at the age of 6 — never stopped me from making her recipe the benchmark by which every other meatball would be judged.

Tweaking her recipe to lighten it up a bit, and make it weekday-friendly by shortening the cook time, was a task I didn't take lightly. And truth to be told: There is a special place in this rush-to-eat food world for the leisurely simmer of small orbs of meat in thick, tangy tomato sauce covered in a fine slick of co-mingled turkey and beef fat that has gently floated to the top. But life is busy, and we need to get a healthy dinner on the table and move on. I get it. These meatballs are for those nights.

First to change: The fatty mix of turkey and beef became simply lean (93 percent) beef. Feel free to mix in chicken, but our family preferred the beef. The next tweak: I added a half pound of mushrooms for every pound of beef to stretch the meat out and add in nutrients. I pulsed the mushrooms in a food processor, and then cooked them with another healthy meat stretcher — onions. (Here, you could add other veggies too: shredded zucchini, carrot, and chopped spinach work great.) I added the mushroom and onion mixture right in with the ground beef, and they added flavor, moisture and bulk, with nary an added calorie (nor a suspicious eye from any of my four kids). I used one egg white (no yolk), and used oats pulsed into a coarse flour instead of breadcrumbs. Simmer these meatballs directly in a pot of a high-quality jarred marinara sauce (check for no added sugar), and in 20 minutes, they will be succulent, tender, and juicy.

Almost like Grandma's.



This Sept 5, 2017 photo shows lightened Italian meatballs in Bethesda, Md. (AP)

Lightened Italian meatballs

Servings 6

Start to finish 40 minutes

8 ounces white mushrooms, sliced (about 2 cups)
1 small yellow onion, finely chopped, about 3/4 cup
1 teaspoon olive oil
4 cloves of garlic, minced
2 teaspoons dried Italian herb blend
1 egg white, lightly beaten
1 pound 93 percent lean ground beef
2 tablespoons grated parmesan
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
1/3 cup oats, pulsed or blended into a coarse powder
1/2 teaspoon Kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
4 cups jarred marinara sauce, with no sugar added

Place the sliced mushrooms in a food processor and pulse 4 or 5 times, until the mushrooms are the texture of coarse couscous. Do not over-process or it will become pasty. Heat a large nonstick saute pan over medium heat and add the olive oil, onion, and mushrooms to the pan. Cook, stirring often, until onion and mushrooms are softened, and most of the liquid has evaporated, about 12 minutes.

Add the garlic, Italian herb blend, salt and pepper, give it a quick stir, and then remove from heat and allow to cool a few minutes. In a large bowl, mix together the egg white and the cooled mushroom mixture. Add the ground beef and mix together, using hands if necessary. Add the parmesan cheese, fresh parsley, fresh basil and ground oats and mix together, just until blended.

Use a small ice cream scoop to portion out uniform meatballs, and roll them gently together in your hands. (You will have approximately 26 meatballs 1.5 inch in diameter.) Pour the marinara sauce into a heavy sauce pan or small Dutch over. Gently place the meatballs in the sauce. Cover and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Reduce heat to low, and let simmer gently for 20 minutes, removing the cover about halfway through the cook time. Serve. (AP)

click

Latest

Continued from Page 20

you to visit the Grand Mosque, which is one of Kuwait's most treasured religious and cultural landmarks to discover the beauty of Islamic arts and architecture. Free guided tours are available all year round on official working days between (9-11 am) and (5-7 pm), within a special tour program designed to cater to the needs of different age groups. The program is as follows:

Reception; Auditorium show; (according to age group); Touring the Mosque; Q & A; Art workshops; (according to age group – between 5 and 18 years old); Snack break; Distribution of the Grand Mosque publications and souvenirs; End of tour.

According to these age groups:

Age group: 5 to 9 years old: Morning: 60 visitors max; Evening: 20; 10 to 15 years: Morning: 100 visitors max; Evening: 45; 16 and above: Morning: 140 visitors max, Evening: 105:

Tour language: Arabic- English- French; Arabic (English upon prior request); Arabic- English- French; Arabic (English upon prior request); Arabic- English- French: Arabic (English upon prior request)

Rules and Regulations:

- Please arrive in time for your visit.
- All visitors are kindly required to abide by the mosque's dress code. Male visitors should wear long pants. Shorts and sleeveless shirts are not allowed. Female visitors: should wear head cover and long loose clothing (available at the mosque).
- Foods and drinks are not allowed inside the prayer halls.
- For school visits, teachers are responsible for their students and are required to cooperate with the staff members of the Grand Mosque.
- Photography is allowed inside the Grand Mosque (please note that disrespectful poses are strictly prohibited).

If you would like to book a tour, please contact us:

Tel: 22980813/ 22980815/ 22980812
Email: gmvisits@gmail.com
Fax: 22473708

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horoscope

By Jacqueline Bigar

Happy birthday for Thursday, September 14, 2017: This year you will feel as if your intellect mixes well with your emotional side. You do not feel as if you must choose to be one way or the other. If you are single, your togetherness draws many potential suitors toward you. You will know what to do and whom to choose, if anyone. If you are attached, the two of you interact well together. Your sensitivity to your sweetie remains high, and conversations between you flow effortlessly. You experience unusual togetherness and intimacy. One of the best signs for you this year is CANCER.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

Capricorn - (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

**** One-on-one relating takes you down a new path. An exciting opportunity appears when you least expect it. This possibility surrounds your domestic life. Follow your intuition in a conversation. You might feel as if you need to know more. Tonight: Speak your mind.

Aquarius - (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

*** You might feel a strong need to complete a project or to work with someone else. The two of you can accomplish a substantial amount, as your strengths and weaknesses seem to balance each other out. Be more forthright about what you want. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

Pisces - (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

**** Tap into your instincts, and you will make an excellent choice. You will do nothing halfway. A loved one makes it clear how much more time he or she would like with you. Try to make this a possibility, and you both will be glad that you did. Tonight: Let your hair down.

Aries - (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

**** Diverse opportunities come your way. Your energy soars and you also feel lucky. Some of you might be touched by a comment you never expected to hear. Enjoy all the positive vibes around you while keeping your desires in mind. Tonight: Make a favorite meal to enjoy.

Taurus - (Apr 20 - May 20)

***** If someone does not have a solution, you effortlessly come up with a workable one. Your energy and caring attitude mix well together. Make important calls early in the day, and everything will work out as it should, if not better. Tonight: Celebrate a close friendship.

Gemini - (May 21 - June 20)

**** Your words mean a lot to others. Choose your words carefully; you have been slightly irritable and sarcastic as of late. Use your physical and emotional energy well. You could surprise yourself at what you could accomplish. Tonight: Schedule a special happening.

Cancer - (June 21 - July 22)

**** Speak your mind, but avoid pettiness. You are able to advance toward an important goal in a key area of your life. Tap into your imagination when making plans for the next few days. Expect to discuss plans, listen to a friend's woes and/or return calls. Tonight: At a favorite haunt.

Leo - (July 23 - Aug 22)

*** Others will work with you, with the exception of an acquaintance who wants more control and will do whatever he or she needs to in order to achieve that goal. You might be surprised by a loved one who is unusually impulsive and unpredictable. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

Virgo - (Aug 23 - Sept 22)

**** Focus on a long-term goal. Don't get caught up in the details. Know what you want, and don't allow anything to distract you. You are capable of making great headway if you keep your eye on the prize. A meeting is likely to hold your attention for a long time. Tonight: Out late.

Libra - (Sept 23 - Oct 22)

**** You'll want to take your time and understand where you want to head professionally or with a key project. You could be easily frustrated if you don't keep your focus. Other situations could be distracting, especially if they're marked by confusion. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

Scorpio - (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

***** Reach out to someone at a distance who has a lot of influence on you. Have an open discussion that allows a great deal of new ideas to flourish and come forward. You'll feel much more intuitive and creative as a result. Tonight: Be spontaneous, and go for what you want.

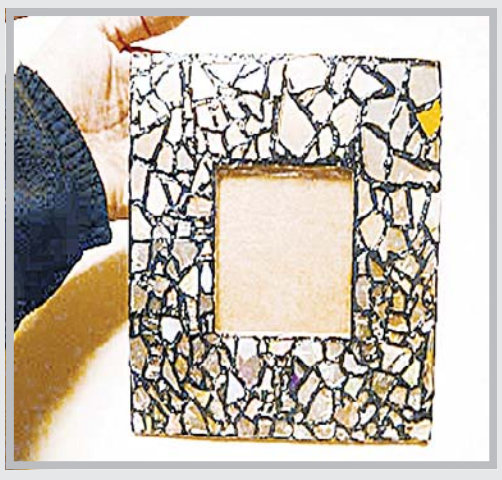
Sagittarius - (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

**** You naturally relate to others on a one-on-one level. People respond well to you, especially a loved one who really enjoys his or her time with you. A veil of mystery surrounds your personal life. Be patient. You will see some clarity emerge. Tonight: Head home early.

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Born today: Singer-songwriter Amy Winehouse (1983), actor Walter Koenig (1936), actor Andrew Lincoln (1973)

home decor



cd mosaic photo frame

You will need: Old CDs, scissors or tin snip, tacky glue, paper mache frame or any flat front photo frame, black slick dimensional fabric paint, tweezers

Method: Cut the CD up into pieces of varied sizes and shapes. Working in small sections squeeze some glue on the front of the frame and spread it out with a scrap piece of thin cardboard. Use the tweezers to pick up the CD pieces one at a time and place in the glue. Keep applying CD pieces in this way making sure you leave some space between each piece. Continue working all around until the entire face of the frame is covered with the CD pieces. Let dry. Fill in the areas between the glued on CD bits with the dimensional fabric paint. Try and keep your lines even. When you have filled in all the open areas, let dry.

indoor gardening



coral bead plant

Botanical Name: Nertera granadensis

Coral Bead Plant is an unusual-looking ornamental plant that grows in a thick mat of tiny, dark-green leaves on intertwining stems.In early summer, small, white flowers appear followed by orange-red berries. The attractive berries can completely cover the foliage and will last for months.

Light: Bright light; no direct sun

Water: Keep soil evenly moist

Temperature: Cool to average 55-65ºF/13-18ºC

Soil: 2 parts peat moss-based potting mix with 1 part sand or perlite for good aeration

Fertilizer: Feed once a month with a balanced liquid fertilizer diluted by half while the berries are on the plant.

beauty tips



banana hair mask

Bananas are rich in tryptophan, an essential amino acid that can help strengthen hair, and potassium, a mineral which helps hair maintain a healthy pH balance.

Ingredients:

1 banana

1 tablespoon of olive or coconut oil

shower cap

Preparation:

Put ingredients in a blender and blend until combined into a paste. Add a dash of flour if paste is too runny. Separate hair into 3-5 sections. Apply mask to each section from roots to ends. Wind hair into a loose bun if long and place a shower cap over hair. Keep it on for 30 minutes and then rinse out, shampooing and conditioning as usual.

taste buds



spicy pumpkin soup

Ingredients:

2 tbsp oil; 1 large onion, chopped; 2 tbsp minced fresh ginger; 1 small jalapeño chili, finely chopped; 3 garlic cloves, minced; 1 tsp lime zest; 15-oz. pumpkin puree; 13.5-oz. light coconut milk; 4 cups chicken broth; salt.

Preparation:

Sauté onion and ginger in a pan until soft. Add jalapeño and garlic; cook for 3 minutes. Stir in lime zest, pumpkin, coconut milk and broth. Bring to a boil, reduce and simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Season with salt. Remove from heat, let cool slightly, then puree in a blender. Serve hot.

Dear Abby

Pressure from bf spurs teen to 'question' love

By Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby: I am a 16-year-old girl in a somewhat happy relationship. When I first started dating my boyfriend, he was all about it, as was I. But now it seems like he's only interested in being intimate. He's always asking me to send him videos and pictures of myself. I also don't think he is understanding my comfort zone.

I have told my friends. They say I'm in an unhealthy relationship because he might pressure me into something I don't want to do. So now, I'm debating whether or not to break up with him. Do you think I should stay with him or break up with him?



Abigail

— Teen in Edmonton, Canada

Dear teen: Your friends are right. This romance doesn't appear to be headed anywhere healthy.

Surely you are aware that once something gets on the iinternet, it's in the public domain forever. Once you have sent your boyfriend the pictures, they could wind up passed around and viewed by everyone at your school.

Your resolve not to be intimate may be rock solid, but even granite can eventually be eroded by a constant drip of water. If he cared about your comfort zone, he would stop bringing the subject up and trying to wear you down. Because he persists, you should break up with him.

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Dear Abby: I have been divorced for eight years and have a wonderful, kindhearted 13-year-old son. My ex-husband and I barely communicate because he was very hurtful and controlling. He was supposed to pay some form of child support, but has never given me a dime. He refuses because of my income, and he hides his money in his business.

I have come to accept his selfishness, but a month ago he "borrowed" $130 from my son's piggy bank -- hard-earned money his relatives gave him for doing chores, getting good grades and birthday gifts. My son has asked his father to return the money, but it has been more than a month and his dad keeps making excuses.

My son is devastated that his dad took his money. It didn't surprise me because my ex always felt entitled to other people's things. What advice can I give my son on how to get his money back, or is it gone forever?

— Piggy bank robbery

Dear robbery: That your ex would steal money from his son and stonewall about returning it is shameful. Tell your son you are sorry his father let him down, and that the money likely won't be returned.

Then advise him that because the piggy bank wasn't secure, it's time the two of you opened a bank account for him and that the signatories will be you and him. This will prevent a repeat of what happened. If it's an interest-bearing account, it will earn money while it's there instead of sitting idle with "Miss Piggy."

❑ ❑ ❑

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

(Source: Universal Uclick)

what's on today

emergency number 112

Civil ID info: 1889988

Site for checking travel ban www.kuwaitcourts.gov.kw/mojweb/NGeneral/Main.jsp

THURSDAY

■ **TIES Center classes:** TIES Center is conducting a series of classes about some of the Prophets and Messengers of God who strove very hard to spread monotheism and teach their respective peoples how to worship God. Their message was not only spiritual; they also taught people how to conduct their daily lives and develop the living conditions on earth.

In this series, we will focus on the following prophets: Adam, Nouh (Noah), Ibrahim (Abraham), Ayoub (Job), Yousuf (Joseph), Mousa (Moses), and Eisa (Jesus) — may peace, mercy and blessings of Allah (to Whom all might and majesty is ascribed) be upon them all.

We will not only focus on historical facts, but will also deduce some important lessons whose application in our daily interactions and chores determine our success and salvation.

Join us every Thursday at 7 pm to learn about the life and times of those messengers of firm resolve.

The TIES Center is the social and educational hub for English Speaking Muslims in Kuwait. For more information, please call 25231015 or e-mail info@tiescenter.net or visit www.tiescenter.net.

FRIDAY

■ **Keraleeyam-2017 postponed:** The Executive Committee of Kala(Art) Kuwait deeply regret to inform that the Keraleeyam-2017 scheduled to be held at Community Hall, Abbassiya at 4:00 pm on Sept 15, has been postponed due to some administrative issues and this event is now rescheduled to be held on Nov 10, 2017 at Indian Community School, Khaithan.

In view of postponement of this program, all other events subject to Keraleeyam-2017, such as handing over of the Kala (Art) Kuwait Sambasivan Award to Vasanthkumar and his performance of the story "Aneesya" as decided earlier will be held on Nov 10, 2017 itself, as informed by Kala (Art) Kuwait President Samkutty Thomas and General Secretary Sunil Kumar.

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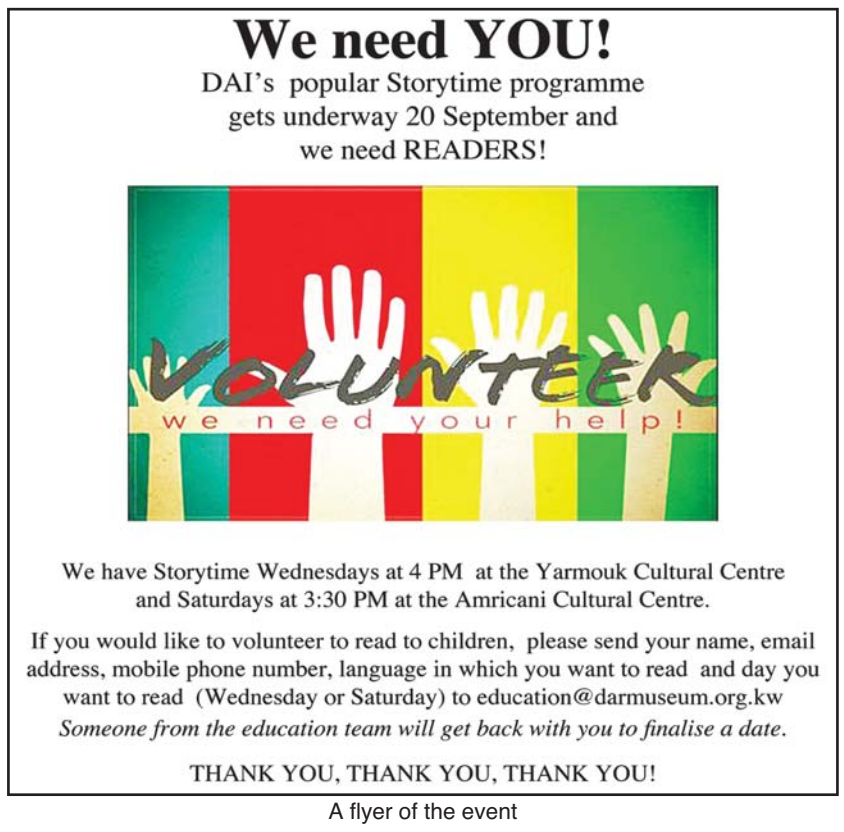
■ **BCS inter-school quiz:** Bengali Cultural Society (BCS) Kuwait will present the 21st edition of the acclaimed Kitco Inter School Quiz Contest on Friday Sept 15, 2017, at 7:00 pm at American International School, Maidan Hawally. The quiz will be conducted by Andrew Scolt of M/s Derek O'Brien & Associates. For the past 21 years, the Kitco Interschool Quiz Contest has maintained a high standard as far as 'edu-tainment' of young minds is concerned. It is an open show. So please join us.

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■ **FBC tournament:** Filipino Badminton Committee (FBC) is inviting all badminton enthusiast in Kuwait to join their regular badminton tournament being held every Friday from 8 am to 7 pm at Kuwait Disabled Sports Club, Bin Khaldoun Hawalli. Over 10 badminton courts are now available for badminton practices and tournament and it is open for all nationalities and from different badminton organizations. Exclusive-private court are also available on per hour rental. For more information, please contact Dr Chie Umandap – 97197268



A flyer of the event



A flyer of the event

Items for the What's On page can be sent directly to the Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023, Safat or faxed to 24818267 or e-mail to arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com.

All items on this page are published as a courtesy to the public. These announcements can include birthday greetings, weddings, social functions or any other non-commercial events. Photographs of all events are welcome.

■ **KGA open football tourney:** Kuwait Goan Association will organize a one day 7-a-side Open Football tournament on Sept 15, 2017 at 5:00 pm onwards at Bayan grounds. Kindly register your slot with Kenneth 99865349, Sydney 55993612, Rosario 99711936, Brito 97644354, Marshall 66726581 or Salvador 99695677.

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■ **Arnis/Eskrima training:** Eskrimador-Kuwait a member of Cacoy Doce Pares World Federation now opens a new batch of training. Learn the Philippine national sports, which is Arnis/Eskrima with the authentic style and techniques. Training schedule will be every Friday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm @ Kaifan Sports Complex-Karate Gym. Text or call #50292148-Herms.

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■ **Free IFRA coaching classes:** Indian Football Referees Association (IFRA) will be starting free refresher/coaching classes for existing referees, new recruits, those aspiring to be referees and even those who would like to learn about the laws of the game at IEAS – Salmiya (Don Bosco).

Classes will be from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm every Friday.

Those interested may call 99519439 or get in touch with any IFRA member for registration.

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■ **Holy Quran classes:** Emanway Foundation – Musk is offering classes to teach English-speaking ladies (and girls ages 5 and up) to read the Holy Quran in Arabic. The method is al-Qaedah Noorania, a traditional program which has been used for many years around the world. (Note: 'Al-Qaedah' simply means 'base'; this can be likened to a basic phonics program.) No Arabic knowledge is required. Every Friday from 4:00 to 5:15 pm, beginning Oct 4. Al-Salam Area (south Surra), Block 2, Street 201, House 30. Classes are free, but seats are limited, so register now by calling 66274724.

Health

End of Pap era?

'Age matters' for cervical cancer screening: experts

WASHINGTON, Sept 13, (Agencies): Getting checked for cervical cancer isn't one-size-fits-all: Millions of women may soon have to decide between a routine Pap or a newer test that detects if they have a cancer-causing virus.

Draft national guidelines released Tuesday for the first time say either option is reasonable for certain women — those ages 30 to 65.

Paps, a mainstay for women's health for decades, can spot precancerous abnormalities in time to prevent cancer. Newer HPV tests detect the virus that causes nearly all of that cancer, and while they're widely used to confirm Pap results, most US medical groups haven't yet pushed them as a stand-alone alternative for screening.

Tuesday's proposal doesn't signal an imminent end to the Pap era. Paps, not HPV tests, still are recommended for screening women in their 20s, stressed the guidelines from the US Preventive Services Task Force.

And don't let the which-test debate blur the main message: "Screening for cervical cancer saves lives", said Task Force member Dr Carol Mangione of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Today, too many women still miss out. Some things to know:

Cervical cancer still a threat

Cervical cancer has dropped dramatically over the past half-century thanks to Pap testing. Still, this year an estimated 12,820 US women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer, and about 4,200 will die. Most haven't been screened, or have gone too long between checks.

Paps examine cells scraped from the cervix. HPV testing looks for high-risk strains of the human papillomavirus, the nation's most common sexually transmitted infection. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, just about everyone will get at least one strain at some point in their lives. But only certain strains cause cervical cancer — and only if they linger long enough in the body.

Age matters for screening

Otherwise healthy women need a Pap every three years from age 21 to 29, agree most US physician groups and the draft Task Force guidelines. Cervical cancer grows so slowly that regular Paps can find a problem early enough to treat.

While the Food and Drug Administration has approved an HPV test for women as young as 25, national guidelines have long recommended Pap screening for 20-somethings. That age group is most likely to get HPV — and the vast majority of the time their bodies clear the infection before it harms.

What changes at age 30?

The older you get, the greater the chance that an HPV infection is the yearslong, harmful kind. To better catch those cases, today what's called co-testing is increasingly common for women 30 and over — a Pap-plus-HPV test combination. If the results of both tests are negative, women can wait five years to test again.

But both Paps and HPV testing can trigger false alarms, prompting unneeded, and sometimes harmful, additional care to rule out cancer. New studies show co-testing leads to more false alarms than either test alone, without adding benefit.

That spurred Tuesday's Task Force proposal to let women 30 and over choose an HPV test by itself every five years — or a Pap every three years instead. The proposal is open for public comment through Oct. 9, before it will be finalized.

Some countries already are moving to make HPV testing the chief screening tool, including the Netherlands and Australia.

"Most experts in this area are in agreement that HPV testing alone is the future of cervical screening", said Debbie Saslow of the American Cancer Society, who wasn't involved with Tuesday's draft guidelines.

Weigh pros and cons

Women in their 30s and older need to discuss screening options with their health providers, said Dr Jason Wright, gynecologic oncology chief at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, who also wasn't involved with the new guidelines.

An HPV test can cost twice as much as a $40 Pap, but doesn't require screening as often. Some data suggest HPV testing leads to more diagnosis of risky pre-cancer — but even by itself, an HPV test can spark more false alarms than a Pap, Wright said.

Also, some follow-up tests can alter the cervix in ways that may affect future pregnancies, a consideration for women still interested in childbearing, added the Task Force's Mangione.

Who can skip cervical cancer screening?

It's not recommended for women younger than 21, or those who had a cervix-removing hysterectomy.

Women can stop screening after age 65 if proper checks until then show they're healthy, current guidelines agree.



This photo taken on Sept 10, shows people taking part in the Sparta Race, a race through an obstacle course, in Qingdao in China's eastern Shandong province. (AFP)

Tattoo ink can seep deep into the body: study

'Hormone pills don't shorten older women's lives'

CHICAGO, Sept 13, (Agencies): Taking hormone pills for several years after menopause didn't shorten older women's lifespans, according to the longest follow-up yet of landmark research that transformed thinking on risks and benefits of a once popular treatment.

That research was halted early when unexpected harms were found from using replacement hormones — estrogen alone or with progestin — versus dummy pills for five to seven years. More breast cancer, heart attacks and strokes occurred in women on combined pills, and those on estrogen pills had more strokes.

But about 18 years of follow-up show that despite those risks, women had similar rates of deaths from heart disease, breast cancer and all other causes as those who took dummy pills.

The new results are reassuring and support current advice: Hormones may be appropriate for some women when used short-term to relieve hot flashes and other bothersome menopause symptoms, said Dr JoAnn Manson, preventive medicine chief at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital and lead author of the follow-up report.

"It's the ultimate bottom line", said Manson, who was also part of the original research. Women want to know "is this medication going to kill me" and the answer appears to be no, she said.

Results were published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Hormones were once considered a fountain of youth for women entering menopause because of weak evidence suggesting a host of purported benefits including reducing heart disease and boosting memory. The landmark research, backed by the US government, began in the early 1990s to rigorously test hormones' effects in older women randomly assigned to take the pills or dummy treatment. Brands studied were Prempro estrogen-progestin pills and Premarin estrogen-only pills.

Symptoms

The results led to advice against taking hormones to prevent age-related diseases. When used for menopause symptoms, the lowest possible dose for the shortest possible time was recommended, then as now. For some women already facing health risks, hormones' potential harms may outweigh any benefits, and discussions with a doctor about starting the treatment are advised.

Participants were aged 50 to 79 and past menopause, older than typical users, and took larger doses than currently recommended.

The follow-up involved most of the more than 27,000 women who were part of the original research. It included time using pills and about 10 or so years after stopping. Some earlier follow-ups suggested no increased risk of death in hormone users, but Manson said this is the first to focus only on deaths from various causes.

Overall, almost 7,500 women died — about 27 percent each in the hormone and dummy pill groups. Most deaths occurred after women stopped taking hormones. About 9 percent of women in both groups died from heart disease and about 8 percent from breast and other cancers.

Among the youngest women, there were fewer overall deaths early on among hormone users than dummy-pill users, but the rates evened out after women stopped using the pills.

Overall, death rates were similar among women on both types of hormone treatment versus dummy pills.

Prempro and Premarin are both approved to treat menopause symptoms and to prevent bone-thinning osteoporosis. Even so, many women and their doctors remain wary of hormone use. An editorial published with the follow-up study says the results "will hopefully alleviate concerns" about the long-term consequences.

More research is needed on risks and benefits of other types of hormones including patches, Manson said.

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Microscopic particles from tattoo ink can migrate into the body and wind up in lymph nodes, crucial hubs of the human immune system, a study revealed Tuesday.

The tiny particles — measuring a few millionths to a few billionths of a centimetre — include molecules from preservatives and contaminants such as nickel, chromium, manganese and cobalt, researchers reported in the peer-reviewed journal Scientific Reports.

Tattoo colouring is composed of various organic and inorganic pigments, and can be contaminated with toxic impurities.

Besides carbon black, the second most common ingredient used in tatoo inks is titanium dioxide, a white pigment also used in food additives, sun screens and paints.

Healing

The chemical has been associated with delayed healing, itching and skin irritation.

"When someone wants to get a tattoo, they are often vary careful in choosing a parlour where they use sterile needles", said co-author **Hiram Castillo**, a researcher at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility in Grenoble, France.

"No one checks the chemical composition of the colours, but our study shows that maybe they should".

Scientists in Grenoble, joined by colleagues at the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment in Berlin, used X-ray fluorescence measurements to identify particles in the skin and the lymph nodes, which are located in the neck, under the arms and along the crease between the thighs and the abdomen.

Only the tiniest, nano-scale particles made it into the lymph nodes.

The researchers also used a technique called Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy to assess changes in tissue near tattoo particles at the molecular level.

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O'Brien to host special on opioid crisis

Trump's WH – a gift or a curse for TV comics?

LOS ANGELES, Sept 13, (RTRS): If you thought the election of Donald Trump has been a gift for comedians, think again.

Just as news media outlets struggle to keep pace with the controversies and personalities at Trump's White House, comedy writers, producers, and talk show hosts have scrambled to process material that a year ago appeared to be a comedy gold mine, but which some no longer see as a laughing matter.

"People say, you comedians must be so happy about Trump", said Miles Kahn, writer and producer on Samantha Bee's "Full Frontal" television show on TBS, a unit of Time Warner Inc.

"I don't think any of us are. We're scared. We get very anxious, we're kept on edge and when you're anxious it's really hard to concentrate and write something funny", Kahn said.

"Full Frontal" is competing on Sunday for a variety talk series Emmy — the highest awards in television — in a tight race that includes late-night shows featuring Stephen Colbert, John Oliver and Bill Maher, who all have relentlessly attacked Trump and his policies.

Asked about the plethora of Trump material, Bee told reporters last week, "As citizens, we would actually ask for less ... We have what we have, so we make what we can out of it".

Colbert's skewering of Trump sent ratings soaring for his "The Late Show" and helped win him the job of hosting Sunday's prime-time Emmy Awards show.

After its most-watched season in 23 years, sketch show "Saturday Night Live", got 22 Emmy nominations. Melissa McCarthy's impersonations of former White House press secretary Sean Spicer brought her a guest actress Emmy last Sunday, while Alec Baldwin's take on Trump and Kate McKinnon's spoofs of Trump aide Kellyanne Conway are in the race this weekend.

In a nation divided by the 2016 presidential election, comedy fills a vital role, even if laughter is sometimes being replaced by outrage, said Dannagal Young, associate professor of communications at the University of Delaware

"Comedy has a history of making light of tragedy. A lot of people are looking to these shows to make sense of the political world, to find some kinship with other people watching and in recognizing the insanity for what it is", Young said.

TV comics like Bee, Colbert, Oliver and Seth Myers, host of "Late Night with Seth Meyers", have been so hard-hitting that their material sometimes "comes close to being didactic, and not cheerful", Young said.

In August, Meyers called Trump a "lying racist". In May, Colbert said Trump has "more people marching against (him) than cancer".

Writers on topical shows are constantly being outpaced by news from the White House and Trump's freewheeling Twitter habit.

"Pretty much on a weekly basis we are throwing out something that we wanted to talk about. After we have rehearsed the show and are in rewrite, we are constantly checking the news to make sure we are not missing anything", said Kahn.

Meanwhile, shows like White House comedy series "Veep", which is bidding for its a third Emmy, and nefarious Washington drama "House of Cards", a contender for best drama series, are in danger of being sidelined.

Young questioned whether the once far-fetched premise of such TV shows is still compelling.

"I have been a huge fan of 'House of Cards,' but I've not even started watching the new season because I don't have room for the fictional version. I'm already overflowing with the real version", she said.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: **Soledad O'Brien** will host an hourlong Hearst Television special on Wednesday focusing on the opioid crisis.

Sen **Ron Johnson** (R-Wisconsin), Sen **Rob Portman** (R-Ohio), Rep **Greg Walden** (R-Oregon), and **Chuck Rosenberg**, director of the Drug Enforcement Agency, will be featured in the program, along with a number of physicians.

O'Brien said that the special will address the epidemic, but also try to highlight solutions.

"We take a look at a number of people who don't have access to what we know works", O'Brien said, noting that "doctors and scientists know what will work — medication combined with behavioral therapy".

The special, titled "Matter of Fact: State of Addiction", is part of an overall effort by Hearst Television to address the opioid crisis. It will originate from the Newseum in Washington, where O'Brien hosts the syndicated weekly series "Matter of Fact With Soledad O'Brien". It will feature live segments from Hearst station news anchors talking about the crisis in their cities, as well as reports from around the country. The program will also stream live on Hearst station websites.

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LOS ANGELES: Former CBS Entertainment head **Glenn Geller** has set up another drama project at CBS, Variety has learned.

The potential drama series is currently titled "Innocent" and is based on a soon-to-be-published book by **James Patterson**. It follows three siblings — an NYPD Detective, an ER resident, and an Assistant District Attorney — try to navigate a new family dynamic when their estranged father is released from prison after serving 18 years for a murder he didn't commit.

Siobhan Byrne O'Connor, an executive producer and writer on the CBS series "Blue Bloods", will write and executive produce "Innocent". Geller will executive produce along with Patterson, **Bill Robinson**, and **Leopoldo Gout**. CBS Television Studios will produce. Robinson and Gout are the co-presidents of James Patterson Entertainment, with both serving as executive producers on the CBS' summer drama "Zoo", which is also based on a Patterson book. They will also executive produce the upcoming Patterson CBS drama "Instinct".

This is the second drama project Geller has set up at CBS in recent weeks. Previously, he and "Madam Secretary" creator **Barbara Hall** sold a CIA drama called "Family Business", which would follow a multi-generational CIA spy family, told through the eyes of its youngest generation.



A flyer of the event



The Afterthought will be playing live at Sirdab Lab on Saturday, Sept 16th from 7-9 pm. This event is hosted by The Diwan and is free of charge and open to the public.

DAI

What is a Docent?

A Docent is a volunteer who teaches visitors about art in the museum's galleries. Docents create meaningful experiences with museum visitors as they explore the world through works of art. They inspire and nurture discovery by encouraging visitors to look more deeply into artworks, and they help to enrich the lives of others by connecting people to art and the museum.

Who can be a Docent?

Anyone with an interest in art and, more important, a willingness to share that interest with others. Of course, there is training involved and we do ask that all our Docents volunteer at least three hours per month at the Amricani Cultural Centre.

How do you become a Docent?

An information meeting for the next class of Docents will be held on Saturday, Sept 30, 10-12 am, at the Amricani Cultural Centre. At the meeting, participants will be briefed on the role of Docents in the DAI and set the training schedule for the autumn sessions.

The training, approximately 12-15 hours, covers the following subjects:

- Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah
- The al-Sabah Collection
- What is a museum?
- Story of Amricani
- Conservation and The al-Sabah Collection
- Islamic Art History
- Introduction to pre-Islamic art
- Introduction to Harvard University Project Zero Thinking Routines
- Introduction to Splendors from the Ancient East exhibition and associated exhibitions
- Introduction to Verses from the Holy Quran on Works of Art exhibition
- Guided walk through Splendors from the Ancient East exhibitions
- Guided walk through Verses from the Holy Quran on Works of Art exhibition

For more information or to sign up for the Sept 30 meeting, please email education@darmuseum.org.kw.

click

Latest

Continued from Page 21

Oct 20

OnaThanima 2017: Onathanima 2017, the most notable expatriate cultural fest in Kuwait, will take place on 20th October 2017 at Indian Central School, Abbasiya.

Thirteenth National Tug-O-War championship in the auspices of Thanima also will be organized along with Onathanima. It is the Largest Tug-O-War championship in the Gulf Region.

The Teams, which are interested to take part in the championship, have to contact on Nos.: 67662667 / 99865499.

General

NYF offers free yoga classes: NYF Kuwait offers free yoga, breathing, meditation and reiki classes by a well-experienced female yoga teacher for all age groups. Classes are given on the basis of different health problems, stress and other problems by different techniques. Contact: 99315825.

tv highlights

Cinema

Cinema programme from Thursday 14/09/2017 to Wednesday 20/09/2017

American Made

360° 12:20, 14:40, 17:15, 17:30, 20:00, 22:30, 01:00 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 14:40, 17:15, 17:30, 20:00, 22:30, 01:00 **(Fri)**
Bairaq 11:30, 13:45, 16:00, 22:15, 00:30 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 13:45, 16:00, 22:15, 00:30 **(Fri)**
Fanar 12:30, 15:00, 17:15, 00:05 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 15:00, 17:15, 00:05 **(Fri)**
Muhalab 12:30, 14:45, 19:45 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 14:45, 19:45 **(Fri)**
Sharqia 11:45, 18:00, 00:45 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 13:30, 18:00, 00:45 **(Fri)**
Avenues 11:35, 13:00, 19:25, 21:30, 00:10 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 19:25, 21:30, 00:10 **(Fri)**
Laila Marina 15:45
11:30, 20:15 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 20:15 **(Fri)**

Annabelle: Creation

360° 22:10
00:15 **(Daily Exc Thu, Fri, Sat)**
14:30, 00:15 **(Thu, Fri)**
12:00, 14:30, 00:15 **(Sat)**
Fanar 11:30 **(Daily Exc Fri)**
Avenues 19:00
11:30, 15:30, 00:05 **(Daily Exc Fri)**
15:30, 00:05 **(Fri)**

Back to Q82 (Kuwaiti Film)

360° 20:10, 22:20, 00:30
Sharqia 20:15
Avenues 15:00, 20:55

CarGo

360° 11:30, 12:40, 14:55, 17:10, 19:25 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 14:55, 17:10, 19:25 **(Fri)**
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13:45, 15:45, 18:15 **(Fri)**

El Kanz (Arabic Film)

360° 19:45, 23:10
Avenues 17:45, 21:00

El Khaleya (Arabic Film)

360° 11:35, 12:25, 13:05, 13:25, 15:10, 15:45, 16:10, 17:55, 18:30, 18:55, 20:40, 21:15, 21:40, 23:20, 00:10, 00:20 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 13:30, 15:10, 15:45, 16:10, 17:55, 18:30, 18:55, 20:40, 21:15, 21:40, 23:20, 00:10, 00:20 **(Fri)**
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Fanar 12:45, 13:45, 16:30, 18:15, 19:15, 21:00, 22:00, 23:45, 00:45 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 13:45, 16:30, 18:15, 19:15, 21:00, 22:00, 23:45, 00:45 **(Fri)**
Muhalab 13:00, 15:45, 18:30, 19:30, 21:15, 00:05 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 15:45, 18:30, 19:30, 21:15, 00:05 **(Fri)**
Sharqia 13:30, 16:15, 19:00, 21:45, 00:30 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 13:40, 16:15, 19:00, 21:45, 00:30 **(Fri)**
Avenues 11:45, 13:45, 14:45, 16:30, 17:30, 19:15, 20:15, 22:00, 23:00, 00:45 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 13:45, 14:45, 16:30, 17:30, 19:15, 20:15, 22:00, 23:00, 00:45 **(Fri)**
Laila Marina 20:00
13:30, 16:05, 18:45, 20:45, 21:30, 00:15
360° 11:45, 14:35, 19:30, 00:35, 12:45, 15:30, 18:15, 21:00, 23:45 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 11:55, 12:00, 13:45, 14:45, 16:30, 19:15, 20:55, 22:00, 23:30, 23:40, 00:45 **(Daily Exc Fri, Tue)**; 13:45, 14:45, 16:30, 19:15, 20:55, 22:00, 23:30, 23:40, 00:45, 14:35, 19:30, 00:35, 15:30, 18:15, 21:00, 23:45 **(Fri)**; 11:55, 12:00, 13:45, 14:45, 16:30, 20:55, 23:00, 23:30, 23:40 **(Tue)**
Bairaq 18:30, 21:15, 00:05
Fanar 13:35, 16:10, 18:50, 21:35, 00:15
Muhalab 17:00, 22:00, 00:45
Sharqia 13:00, 15:45, 18:30, 21:15, 00:05 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 15:45, 18:30, 21:15, 00:05 **(Fri)**
Avenues 14:00, 16:50, 21:45, 00:30; 11:40, 16:15, 21:35, 00:15, 12:55, 15:40, 18:20, 21:05, 23:50 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 15:40, 18:20, 21:05, 23:50, 16:15, 21:35, 00:15 **(Fri)**
Laila Marina 22:45
12:30, 15:30, 23:30 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 15:50, 23:30 **(Fri)**

Simran (Hindi Film)

360° 17:00
Ajial 15:30, 18:30
Plaza 16:15 **(Daily Exc Thu)**; 16:15, 21:45 **(Thu)**

Terminator 2: Judgement Day

360° 21:30

The Hitman's Bodyguard

360° 15:20, 17:50
Avenues 13:10, 00:20 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 00:20 **(Fri)**

The Limehouse Golem

360° 11:40, 13:55, 16:00, 18:10, 20:35, 22:55, 01:10 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 13:55, 16:00, 18:10, 20:35, 22:55, 01:10 **(Fri)**
Fanar 15:45, 20:30, 22:45, 01:00
Muhalab 12:45, 22:15, 00:30 **(Thu, Mon)**; 22:15, 00:30 **(Fri, Sat)**; 12:45, 15:15, 22:15, 00:30 **(Sun, Tue, Wed)**
Sharqia 22:30
Avenues 12:40, 14:50, 17:50, 20:05, 22:15, 00:25 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 14:50, 17:50, 20:05, 22:15, 00:25 **(Fri)**
Marina 13:45, 22:30, 00:45 **(Daily Exc Thu, Fri, Sat)**; 22:30, 00:45 **(Thu, Fri, Sat)**

The Nut Job 2: Nutty by Nature

360° 17:25
Avenues 14:20

The Trip To Spain

360° 17:20, 19:35, 21:50, 00:05 **(Daily Exc Fri, Sat, Mon)**; 15:05, 17:20, 19:35, 21:50, 00:05 **(Fri)**; 12:50, 15:05, 17:20, 19:35, 21:50, 00:05 **(Sat)**; 19:35, 21:50, 00:05 **(Mon)**
Avenues 11:55, 14:20, 16:40, 19:05, 21:20, 23:40 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 14:20, 16:40, 19:05, 21:20, 23:40 **(Fri)**

Victoria And Abdul

360° 13:00, 15:30, 18:00, 20:30, 23:00 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 15:30, 18:00, 20:30, 23:00 **(Fri)**
Fanar 18:00, 19:30, 21:45 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 13:30, 18:00, 19:30, 21:45 **(Fri)**
Avenues 12:15, 14:35, 17:00, 19:20, 21:40 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 14:35, 17:00, 19:20, 21:40 **(Fri)**
Marina 18:30 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 13:35, 18:30 **(Fri)**

Wind River

360° 14:35, 16:50, 19:05, 21:20
Avenues 12:45, 18:40, 23:15 **(Daily Exc Fri)**; 18:40, 23:15 **(Fri)**

Lucknow Central (Hindi Film)

Ajial 21:00

Magalir Mattum (Tamil Film)

Ajial 18:45 **(Daily Exc Thu)**; 15:45, 18:45, 21:45 **(Thu)**

Patel Ki Punjabi Shaadi (Hindi Film)

Ajial 16:30, 22:00 **(Daily Exc Thu)**
Plaza 21:45 **(Daily Exc Thu)**

Thupparivaalan (Tamil Film)

Ajial 15:45, 21:45 **(Daily Exc Thu)**
Plaza 18:45 **(Daily Exc Thu)**

Velipadinte Pusthakam (Malayalam Film)

Ajial 19:00 **(Daily Exc Thu)**; 16:00, 19:00, 22:00 **(Thu)**
Plaza 18:45 **(Thu)**

IMAX

Imax film programme at The Scientific Center

Sunday

Showtime Available for Groups 09:30 am
Flying Monsters 3D 10:30 am, 07:30 pm
A Beautiful Planet 3D 11:30 am, 06:30 pm, 09:30 pm
Journey to Space 3D 12:30 pm
Humpback Whales 3D 05:30 pm
Kenya: Animal Kingdom 3D 08:30 pm

Monday

Showtime Available for Groups 09:30 am
A Beautiful Planet 3D 10:30 am, 05:30 pm, 07:30 pm
Humpback Whales 3D 11:30 am, 09:30 pm
Flying Monsters 3D 12:30 pm, 06:30 pm
Journey to Space 3D 08:30 pm

Tuesday

Showtime Available for Groups 09:30 am
Journey to Space 3D 10:30 am, 04:30 pm
Flying Monsters 3D 11:30 am, 09:30 pm
A Beautiful Planet 3D 12:30 pm, 02:30 pm, 05:30 pm, 08:30 pm
Kenya: Animal Kingdom 3D 01:30 pm
Humpback Whales 3D 03:30 pm, 06:30 pm
Secret Ocean 3D 07:30 pm

Wednesday

Showtime Available for Groups 09:30 am
Flying Monsters 3D 10:30 am, 05:30 pm
A Beautiful Planet 3D 11:30 am, 06:30 pm, 09:30 pm
Humpback Whales 3D 12:30 pm
Kenya: Animal Kingdom 3D 07:30 pm
Journey to Space 3D 08:30 pm

Thursday

Showtime Available for Groups 09:30 am
A Beautiful Planet 3D 10:30 am, 07:30 pm
Flying Monsters 3D 11:30 am, 06:30 pm, 09:30 pm
Kenya: Animal Kingdom 3D 12:30 pm
Journey to Space 3D 05:30 pm
Humpback Whales 3D 08:30 pm

Friday

A Beautiful Planet 3D 02:30 pm, 06:30 pm, 09:30 pm
Journey to Space 3D 03:30 pm
Humpback Whales 3D 04:30 pm
Secret Ocean 3D 05:30 pm
Kenya: Animal Kingdom 3D 07:30 pm
Flying Monsters 3D 08:30 pm

Saturday

Showtime Available for Groups 09:30 am
Flying Monsters 3D 10:30 am, 05:30 pm, 07:30 pm
A Beautiful Planet 3D 11:30 am, 03:30 pm, 08:30 pm
Journey to Space 3D 12:30 pm, 06:30 pm, 09:30 pm
Humpback Whales 3D 01:30 pm
Kenya: Animal Kingdom 3D 02:30 pm
Secret Ocean 3D 04:30 pm

Notes: All films are in Arabic. For English, headsets are available upon request. Film schedule is subject to changes without notice.

For information call 1 848 888 or visit www.tsck.org.kw

Turkish Airlines profits in Africa, where others fear to fly

When Turkish Airlines opened a direct daily route to a war-ravaged African failed state plagued by Islamist militants, industry insiders were sceptical.

Not anymore.

"Somalia is one of our most profitable destinations worldwide," Mustafa Ozkahraman, Kenya country manager for Turkish Airlines, told Reuters in an interview. "Because we are the only (international airline). The first and the only one."

The Istanbul-based carrier is replicating the move across Africa, expanding to destinations shunned by others. The move comes as political unrest at home last year pushed the airline into the red for the first time in 17 years.

In 2011, Turkish Airlines flew to 14 African cities. By the end of this year, it will operate 52 routes from Istanbul across Africa, after launching a route to Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone.

From January to June, just under a tenth of total passenger and cargo revenues came from Africa, according to results for the first half of 2017 that showed a net loss of $434 million.

Rival Emirates has less than 30 routes. Last year, the Dubai-based airline cut one African flight and reduced the frequency of several others.

It cited weak economic conditions in Africa, where many countries dependent on revenues from commodities exports have seen economic growth fall below population growth.

But Turkish Airlines, which is 49 percent state-owned, is bullish on Africa, a continent of 1 billion people. (RTRS)

Iran to ensure oil market stability

Iran will take any necessary steps to ensure the stability of the oil market, Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said on Wednesday after meeting Venezuelan counterpart Eulogio Del Pino in Tehran, according to SHANA, the news site of the Iranian oil ministry.

"We are prepared for any action that will help the stability of the oil market," Zanganeh said.

Zanganeh said compliance by members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries with an agreement to curb oil output had been about 98 percent in the past eight months and would improve in the future.

Zanganeh discussed a possible extension of the OPEC supply cuts until June 2018 with Del Pino, SHANA reported. Talks will be held with other OPEC members about extending the cuts at an Oct 4 meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum in Moscow. (RTRS)

Market Movements 13-09-2017

			Change	Closing pts
JAPAN	-	Nikkei	+89.20	19,865.82
GERMANY	-	DAX	+28.80	12,553.57
FRANCE	-	CAC 40	+8.58	5,217.59
EUROPE	-	Euro Stoxx 50	+10.58	3,523.14
INDIA	-	Sensex	+27.75	32,186.41
AUSTRALIA	-	All Ordinaries	-2.40	5,804.00
S. KOREA	-	KRX 100	-6.18	4,833.09
PHILIPPINES	-	All Shares	-2.26	4,776.35
HONG KONG	-	Hang Seng	-78.16	27,894.08

Business

QIA says most of future US investments in hi-tech and infrastructure

'Business as usual' for Qatar's $300bn sovereign fund: CEO

DOHA, Sept 13, (AFP): The head of the Qatar Investment Authority said Wednesday that the lingering Gulf political crisis was having little impact on the $300 billion sovereign wealth fund of the gas-rich nation.

In a rare public appearance, Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohamed bin Saud Al-Thani, chief executive at the QIA, said there was "no problem" for the fund despite the crisis passing the 100-day mark.

"We are still open for business and business as usual," Sheikh Abdullah said in an address at the Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar.

"We are fine," he added.

Qatar has found itself regionally isolated since June 5 after Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut all ties, accusing Doha of bankrolling Islamist extremists and being too close to Iran.

The emirate denies the charges and has moved to realign itself politically and economically.

Impact

Pressed on the impact of the crisis several times, Sheikh Abdullah said the QIA's exposure to those countries leading the boycott was "very, very small" and added that the fund would continue its recent policy of targeting hi-tech and infrastructure companies in the United States.

"The future is technology," he said.

Moody's Investor Service said on Wednesday the regional dispute was hurting the economies of all countries involved, with Qatar being impacted the most.

It estimated that around $30 billion flowed out of Qatar's banking system in June and July and that Doha used $38.5 billion in the two months to support the economy.

Among the companies in which the QIA was investing were those in the health sector using hi-tech solutions for cancer treatment, said Sheikh Abdullah.

In 2015 he announced that the QIA would invest up to $35 billion in the United States over the following five years, after targeting high-profile acquisitions in Europe.

Last December it was also announced the fund would invest $10 billion in US infrastructure projects.

He said Wednesday that around half of that $45 billion had been invested.

The QIA has opened an office in New York and will do so soon in the Silicon Valley, he added.

"If you want to invest in the States, you have to have boots on the ground," he said.

Earlier this week it was announced that the QIA and Swiss commodities trader Glencore had sold a major part of a stake they had only recently acquired in Russian oil giant Rosneft to Chinese conglomerate CEFC. The QIA is considered one of the world's biggest sovereign funds, swollen by Qatar's massive gas and oil revenues.

Global oil inventories shrinking: IEA

Agency raises 2017 demand growth

LONDON, Sept 13, (RTRS): The global oil surplus is beginning to shrink due to stronger-than-expected European and US demand growth, as well as production declines in OPEC and non-OPEC countries, the International Energy Agency said on Wednesday.

The agency, which coordinates energy policies of industrial nations, raised its 2017 global oil demand growth estimate to 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd) from 1.5 million bpd.

"OECD demand growth continues to be stronger than expected, particularly in Europe and the US," the Paris-based IEA said.

"Based on recent bets made by investors, expectations are that markets are tightening and that prices will rise, albeit very modestly," the IEA said.

Robust demand in industrialised countries was a key factor behind global demand growing 2.3 million bpd in the second quarter, the highest quarterly year-on-year rise since mid-2015.

Supply

On the supply side, global oil output fell by 0.72 million bpd in August due to unplanned outages and scheduled maintenance in OPEC member Libya as well as non-OPEC states such as Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Mexico, as well as in the North Sea.

It was the first fall in global production in four months.

OPEC's crude output fell in August for the first time in five months on renewed turmoil in Libya, with the cartel's production decreasing by 0.21 million bpd to 32.67 million bpd.

The 12 members of OPEC bound by a supply-cutting pact raised their compliance to 82 percent in August from 75 percent in July. Their compliance for the year so far was 86 percent.

As a result of output declines and stronger demand, global oil stocks are beginning to rebalance, according to the IEA.

"OECD commercial stocks were unchanged in July at 3.016 billion barrels, when they normally increase," the IEA said.

The global surplus of crude and stocks over the five-year average fell to 190 million barrels. OPEC cut its output in January 2017 by 1.8 million bpd to help inventories return to a 5-year average and prop up prices.

"OECD product stocks were only 35 million barrels above the five-year average at end-July," the IEA said.

"Depending on the pace of recovery for the US refining industry post-Harvey, very soon OECD product stocks could fall to, or even below, the five-year level," it said referring to Hurricane Harvey which hit the United States two weeks ago.

With ongoing rebalancing, the IEA raised its call on OPEC's oil by 0.1 million bpd for both 2017 and 2018.

Extension of supply cut pact being discussed among oil producers

OPEC could hold extraordinary meeting in March: Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13, (RTRS): Kuwait's Oil Minister Essam al-Marzouq said on Wednesday that OPEC could hold an extraordinary meeting in mid-March if oil producers did not reach a decision to extend their supply cut pact when it next meets in November.

"In the coming November meeting, we may not reach a decision to extend ... the agreement and we could hold an extraordinary meeting in mid-March for this matter," Marzouq said at a joint news conference with his Venezuelan counterpart in Kuwait City.

OPEC and other producers, including Russia, have agreed to reduce output by about 1.8 million barrels per day until March 2018 in a bid to reduce global oil inventories and support oil prices.

An extension of at least three months is being discussed among oil producers before OPEC meets again in November.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Eulogio Del Pino said that "all options are open" regarding the global cuts agreement. "I have discussed with the Saudi and Kuwait oil ministers (ideas) other than extending the agreement and we are open on all the options," Del Pino said.

Saudi Arabian Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih and his Venezuelan and Kazakh counterparts have discussed a possible extension of the pact, the Saudi energy ministry said on Sunday.

Marzouq said that the joint OPEC, non-OPEC ministerial committee, known as the JMMC and headed by Kuwait, has not yet been asked to study whether to extend the pact or not.



Essam Al-Marzouq

The JMMC will meet on Sept 22 in Vienna and will urge oil producers participating in the agreement for full compliance with it, Marzouq said.

Del Pino also said his country would price its crude oil sales in currencies other than the US dollar, giving the Chinese yuan and Indian rupee as examples.

Several oil producing nations have repeatedly pledged to switch away from the US dollar for crude sales including Russia and Iran. Most attempts have been rebuffed by the global oil trading community which prefers to trade in dollars.

Del Pino will travel to Tehran on Wednesday to meet with his Iranian counterpart, he said.

Shell set to end a century of oil production in Iraq

LONDON, Sept 13, (RTRS): Royal Dutch Shell is set to end a century of oil production in Iraq by withdrawing from two of the Arab state's flagship fields to focus on more profitable gas development.

Shell's retreat highlights the challenges foreign operators face with low-margin oil contracts in Iraq, an OPEC member that sits on some of the world's biggest oil reserves and wants to boost production after years of conflict hindered development.

The Anglo-Dutch firm said on Wednesday it had agreed with Iraq's oil ministry to relinquish operations at Majnoon field to the government after unfavourable changes to fiscal terms. The announcement confirmed an earlier Reuters report. Shell is also selling its 20 percent stake in West Qurna 1 oil field in the south of the country. The field is operated by Exxon Mobil.

Investment bank Lazard is running the sale for Shell, industry sources told Reuters. The bank did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Shell said it was still committed to producing gas in Iraq, saying it would focus on developing and expanding the Basra Gas Company, which processes gas from the Rumaila, West Qurna and Zubair fields. It has a 44 percent stake in the joint venture.

Shell produced almost 20 million barrels of oil from Iraq during 2016, which accounted for about 3.5 percent of the firm's total oil output last year, according to Shell's annual report. Precise terms of the contract terms are not public and Shell has not detailed its earnings from Iraqi oil.

But a source told Reuters last year Shell had found limited financial benefit in recent years from oil production in Iraq, where it is paid in crude but has limited say on strategy.

"The Oil Minister of Iraq formally endorsed a recent Shell proposal to pursue an amicable and mutually acceptable release of the Shell interest in Majnoon, with the timeline to be agreed in due course," a Shell company spokesman said. Shell took the decision after Iraq applied performance penalties on the Shell-operated venture "which had a significant impact on its commerciality," he said.

Battling a sharp fall in oil prices since 2014, Iraq asked foreign firms to cut spending on oil projects in order to reduce the cash-strapped government's contribution in shared ventures.

New Apple Watch that makes calls turn comic book fantasy into reality

Apple unveils $999 iPhone X, new Face ID technology

CUPERTINO, California, Sept 13, (Agencies): Apple on Tuesday unveiled a number of new phones, including its most expensive one yet, as well as new versions of its Apple Watch and its streaming TV device. Here's a rundown of the announcements.

iPhone X

Apple is releasing a super-premium iPhone with a super-premium price tag, starting at $999. The new iPhone X — pronounced like the number 10 — will have a screen with higher resolution and richer colors.

It will also lose a distinct home button to make more room for the 5.8-inch display. That's slightly more than the Plus model's 5.5 inches, though the phone's size is closer to the regular iPhone model.

The features are similar to what Samsung offers.

The new design will enable new ways to interact with the phone. Instead of pressing the button to get the home page, you swipe up instead.

Apple is also offering the ability to unlock the phone with facial recognition rather than a fingerprint or passcode. Though some Android phones offer this, Apple is adding sensors to improve performance and says it worked with mask designers during testing to improve security. An executive initially failed to unlock the phone this way in a demo Tuesday, though.

The new phone, which is coming Nov 3, will also permit animated emojis that mirror your facial movements and promises two more hours of battery life than what's in the current iPhone 7. Such an iPhone has been widely anticipated for the iPhone's 10th anniversary and comes just weeks after Samsung unveiled its own super-premium phone, the $930-and-up Galaxy Note 8.

iPhone 8

Apple is refreshing its lineup of iPhones with camera, display and speaker improvements.

The new phones promise to shoot pictures with better colors and less distortion, particularly in low-light settings. The display will adapt to ambient lighting, similar to a feature in some iPad Pro models. Speakers will be louder and offer deeper bass.

The new iPhone 8 will keep its predecessor's size — 4.7 inches — but have a higher starting price of $699, up from $649. The 5.5-inch iPhone 8 Plus starts at $799, up from $769. The new phones come out Sept 22

Apple is bucking its traditional naming convention by calling the new phones iPhone 8 rather than 7S. The S designation might have given consumers the impression that the new phones are mere incremental updates from the current iPhone 7.

The Plus version will continue to have two camera lenses and now has the ability to optimize lighting as you shoot.

Both versions will allow wireless charging. Many Android phones, including Samsung's, already have this.

Apple Watch

Apple is coming out with a new smartwatch designed to be less dependent on the iPhone. A new model will still require a companion iPhone, but comes with cellular access. That makes it possible to do more — like receiving messages — while the phone is at home. The watch will use the same number as the phone. The feature will require a $5 or $10 data add-on to an existing phone plan.

The new cellular model, called Series 3, will start at $399. One without cellular goes for $329, down from $369 for the comparable model now. The original Series 1, without GPS, sells for $249, down from $269. The new watch comes out Sept. 22.

Existing Apple Watches will get a software update next Tuesday that will provide more analysis of your heart rate. The Series 3 also delivers warnings for elevated heart rate when you don't appear to be active.

Apple TV

A new version of the Apple TV streaming device will be able to show video with sharper "4K" resolution — a step up from standard high definition — and a color-improvement technology called high dynamic range. Many rival devices already offer these features. However, there's not a lot of video in 4K and HDR yet, nor are there many TVs that can display it.

Apple says it's been working with movie studios to bring titles with 4K and HDR to its iTunes store. They will be sold at the same prices as high-definition video, which tends to be a few dollars more than standard-definition versions. Apple says it's working with Netflix and Amazon Prime to bring their 4K original programs to Apple TV, too.

The 4K version of Apple TV will cost $179 and ships on Sept 22. A version without 4K will cost $149.

More than two years after releasing the Apple Watch, Apple Inc has finally been able to replicate 1940s comic strip technology, an advance that analysts say will spur sales.

The Series 3 of the Apple Watch features wireless LTE connectivity. That means customers will be able to make phone calls or send text messages from the watch without needing to have an iPhone nearby, as they do with earlier models.

The ability to make calls with a wristwatch has captured the imagination of tech enthusiasts at least since it was prominently featured in "Dick Tracy," the comic about a private detective who, starting in 1946, used calls from his wrist to help bust bad guys.

"This has been our vision from the beginning," Chief Operating Officer Jeff Williams said at the launch event.



An AirPower mat is seen charging multiple devices during a media event at Apple's new headquarters in Cupertino, California on Sept 12. (AFP)

Airbus wins $4 bln order from Cathay

PARIS, Sept 13, (AFP): Airbus said Wednesday it has finalised a more than $4 billion order with Cathay Pacific for 32 of its A321neo aircraft to revamp the Hong Kong-based carrier's regional affiliate.

The single-aisle medium-haul jets will be operated by Cathay Dragon which flies from Hong Kong to a number of Asian destinations, Airbus said in a statement.

A preliminary agreement had been signed in August.

The A321neo planes "will replace and modernise Cathay Dragon's current in-service fleet of 15 A320s and eight A321s, with the additional aircraft allowing the airline to capture growth opportunities in the region," Airbus said.

Cathay Dragon currently covers 56 Asian destinations, including 28 in mainland China.

The A321neo can seat up to 240 passengers and uses more fuel-efficient engines to reduce fuel consumption by up to 20 percent per seat, Airbus said.

It competes with rival Boeing's 737 MAX 10.

TVO challenges approval of Areva bailout

Finnish utility TVO said Wednesday it would appeal the EU's approval of a bailout of Areva, saying it did not provide adequate guarantees the French nuclear giant would be able to complete construction of a reactor in Finland.

Areva, together with German engineering group Siemens, has been building in Finland since 2005 what was meant to be a showcase of next-generation nuclear power, but which has instead showcased the industry's chronic delays and cost overruns. The European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) reactor at Olkiluoto, or OL3, is now expected to open nine years late in 2018.

The mounting bill for the reactor, plus the crippling blow to the sector's prospects dealt by the 2011 Fukushima disaster in Japan, led the French government in 2015 to launch a restructuring of the firm that would see parts of it split up and sold off.

In January, the European Commission gave the go-ahead to the French government to invest 4.5 billion euros to salvage its operations, which it did in July.

"TVO is not opposed in principle to the intervention by the French State in favour of the Areva Group, provided that TVO's needs for OL3 EPR are fully taken into account, which is currently not the case," the Finnish company said in a statement. (AFP)

UK lawmaker calls for shaking up membership of bank boards

Banks need to recruit a wider assortment of non-executive directors to their boards to end the kind of "group think" that lay behind the financial crisis, a senior British lawmaker said on Wednesday.

Non-executive directors failed to ask bank bosses tough questions before the 2007-2009 crisis, said Nicky Morgan, who was elected as chair of parliament's Treasury Select Committee in July, and that remains an issue today.

"It's getting the right people on boards, asking the tough questions, to be unpopular with their executive officers," Morgan told a Resolution Foundation think tank meeting to debate whether UK banking has changed since the crisis.

Companies hire non-executives from the same mould as existing members, the former minister for women and equalities said.

"There is still far too much recruitment in the board's own image," said Morgan, a member the governing Conservative party. The Treasury Select Committee drove through regulatory changes after the crisis, and Morgan said those reforms would be reviewed a decade after Northern Rock became the first bank in a century to trigger a run. "We are going to look at the whole architecture, 10 years on," Morgan said. The crisis forced the government to inject billions of pounds into ailing banks, and since then the committee has held marathon sessions to make sure regulators and bankers toe the line. (RTRS)

US producer prices rebound in August

Driven by higher gasoline prices

WASHINGTON, Sept 13, (RTRS): US producer prices rebounded in August, driven by a surge in the cost of gasoline, and there were also signs of a pickup in underlying producer inflation.

The Labor Department said on Wednesday its producer price index for final demand increased 0.2 percent last month after slipping 0.1 percent in July. In the 12 months through August, the PPI rose 2.4 percent after advancing 1.9 percent in July.

Economists said the uptick in producer prices was unlikely to assuage Federal Reserve policymakers' concerns about low inflation as the increase was largely due to a 9.5 percent increase in the cost of gas. That was the largest rise since January and followed a 1.4 percent decline in July.

Though gas prices could rise further in September in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, which disrupted oil refinery production in Texas, a reversal was expected because of ample crude supplies.

"Energy price gains, which will likely dominate the September inflation reports in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, will likely be viewed as having a temporary impact on inflation by the Fed," said John Ryding, chief economist at RDQ Economics in New York.

Economists had forecast the PPI gaining 0.3 percent last month and accelerating 2.5 percent from a year ago.

A key gauge of underlying producer price pressures that excludes food, energy and trade services rose 0.2 percent last month after being unchanged in July. The so-called core PPI increased 1.9 percent in the 12 months through August after a similar gain in July.

Prices of US Treasuries were trading lower, while the dollar rose against a basket of currencies. US stock indexes were little changed after hitting record highs on Tuesday.

Inflation is being closely watched for clues on the timing of the next Fed interest rate increase. Economists expect the US central bank will announce a plan to start reducing its $4.2 trillion portfolio of Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities at its Sept 19-20 policy meeting.

The Fed is expected to delay raising rates until December.

August's consumer inflation report scheduled for release on Thursday is expected to show gasoline prices helped push up the Consumer Price Index by 0.3 percent after a 0.1 percent rise in July, according to a Reuters survey of economists.

Last month's increase in the PPI is unlikely to translate into a similar gain in the Fed's preferred inflation measure, the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index excluding food and energy.

The annual increase in the core PCE has consistently undershot the central bank's 2 percent inflation target since mid-2012. The core PCE rose 1.4 percent in July, the smallest year-on-year increase since December 2015.

The cost of food fell 1.3 percent as wheat prices recorded their biggest drop since April 2008. The decrease in food prices last month was the largest since February 2015 and followed an unchanged reading in July. There were also declines in the prices of fresh vegetables, fruits and meat.

Core goods prices rose 0.2 percent last month after slipping 0.1 percent in July. The cost of services edged up 0.1 percent after falling 0.2 percent in July. A 1.7 percent surge in the cost of consumer loans accounted for more than half of the increase in the price of services last month.

The cost of healthcare services increased 0.3 percent after a similar gain in July.

"This morning's producer price gains for August are a step in the right direction," said Scott Anderson, chief economist at the Bank of the West in San Francisco. "However, they are not yet quite as strong or as broad-based as the Federal Reserve would like to see to help push core consumer price inflation back up to the Fed's 2 percent target."

US job openings at record high; qualified workers scarce

WASHINGTON, Sept 13, (RTRS): US job openings rose to a record high in July, suggesting a slowdown in job growth in August was an aberration and that the labor market was strong before the recent disruptive hurricanes.

The monthly Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, or JOLTS, released by the Labor Department on Tuesday showed the labor market continued to tighten amid a scarcity of workers.

The strong labor market fundamentals could encourage the Federal Reserve to continue tightening monetary policy this year despite inflation persistently running below the US central bank's 2 percent target.

"Employers need skilled labor and experienced workers are in short supply, which continues to suggest the economy has returned to a relatively normal labor market that does not need exceptional support from the Fed," said John Ryding, chief economist at RDQ Economics in New York.

Job openings, a measure of labor demand, increased by 54,000 to a seasonally adjusted 6.2 million. That was the highest level since the data series started in December 2000. Job openings have now been above 6 million for two straight months.

Hiring increased 69,000 to 5.5 million in July, lifting the hiring rate to a near 1-1/2-year high of 3.8 percent from 3.7 percent in June.

Labor market tightness was also underscored by another report from the National Federation of Independent Business.

The NFIB survey showed a record share of small businesses in August ranked difficulties finding qualified workers as "their top business problem." The rise in job vacancies in July bolsters views that August's moderation in job gains was largely because of a seasonal quirk.

Nonfarm payrolls increased by 156,000 jobs last month, with the private services sector hiring the smallest number of workers in five months. Job growth in September could, however, be held back by hurricanes Harvey and Irma, which struck Texas and Florida, respectively.

The two states account for about 14 percent of US employment. Temporary unemployment as a result of flooding from Harvey has already caused a surge in first-time applications for jobless benefits.

"The JOLTS data signal that the labor market was in solid shape in July and support our view that we should not be very concerned about the modest disappointment in the August payroll report," said Daniel Silver, an economist at JPMorgan in New York.

JOLTS is one of the job market metrics on Fed Chair Janet Yellen's dashboard. Economists expect the US central bank will announce a plan to start reducing its $4.2 trillion portfolio of Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities at its Sept. 19-20 policy meeting.

Benign inflation amid sluggish wage growth, however, suggests the Fed will delay raising interest rates again until December. It has increased borrowing costs twice this year.

Both countries collected about $630mn due to accommodative regulations

Five REITs listed in KSA & UAE in 10M: Marmore

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: Marmore MENA Intelligence, a subsidiary of Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz", recently released a report titled 'REITs in GCC: Regulatory hurdles persist', analyzing the prevailing circumstances and future prospects for REITs in the region.

Five REITs have been listed in GCC, four in Saudi Arabia and one in the UAE within a span of 10 months, higher than the number of IPOs in the region. This sudden emergence of an alternate asset class augurs well for the melancholic investment climate and makes available diversified products such as exchange traded funds, derivatives and REITs for its affluent and high net worth individuals who have till now searched beyond borders for alternative investment products.

Historical returns in the US indicate that REITs can be used as a hedge against inflation. Listing of REITs also improves the transparency in real estate market encouraging private players to invest in residential as well as commercial projects. The growth of the real estate sector will translate into more jobs and diversification of the economy.

Hence, an organized real estate market with alternate funding mechanisms is of utmost importance and will de-stress the banking system. Introduction of REITs will further augment the nationalization program in GCC, as the contribution of nationals in the real estate sector is high.

GCC, is home to one of the most active real estate markets but development of REIT's has been a problem due to several hurdles. A key impediment to the growth of REIT's in the region is regulations. In most of the countries in GCC, foreign ownership is restricted (wholly or partially) in real estate. Ownership limits are also limited in capital markets for international investors.

There are also leverage regulations placed on the real estate investment trusts. For instance, in KSA, a REIT issuer's leverage is restricted to 50% while in countries such as USA and Canada there is no restriction on the debt levels. Liberalizing the limits on foreign ownership will be one of the prime measures for developing secondary markets for such products.

GCC nations also need to emphasize on improving the market infrastructure such as adopting a common settlement cycle that is widely accepted, developing delivery versus payment systems apart from improving the transparency and disclosure mechanisms that are currently lagging behind.

UAE and KSA are among the forerunners in the region to have introduced regulations that are accommodative for the listing of REITs. Currently both these countries together have collected a corpus of about USD 630 million.

Bahrain too has followed suit and has recently enlisted elaborate procedures for listing REITs. Sharia compliant Islamic REITs have also been developed and has been received favorably by investors. While the REITs market is still at a nascent stage, it is surely showing signs of moving in the right direction.



In this file photo, computer scientist Mohamed Saad Ibn Seddik, of Sea Machines Robotics, uses a laptop to guide a boat outfitted with sensors and self-navigating software and capable of autonomous navigation in Boston Harbor. The boat still needs human oversight, but some of the world's biggest maritime firms have committed to designing ships that won't need any captains or crews — at least not on board. (AP)

EU weighs plan to attract fintech cos

BRUSSELS, Sept 13, (RTRS): European Union finance ministers will discuss this week a plan to attract more financial-technology companies, in a bid to bridge the gap with global competitors and offset the loss of Europe's main fintech market after Britain leaves the bloc.

The EU fintech market is dwarfed by those in China and the United States. It is concentrated in Britain, which is set to quit the EU in 2019, leaving the bloc with a fraction of the small but flourishing industry.

In a meeting on Friday in Tallinn, the Estonian capital, EU finance ministers will discuss how to make the continent more attractive to fintech companies and encourage the cross-border expansion of existing companies, which so far are focussed on national markets, according to documents seen by Reuters.

China is the fintech leader, with a market worth $102 billion in 2015, according to a paper prepared by the Brussels-based think-tank Bruegel for the Tallinn meeting.

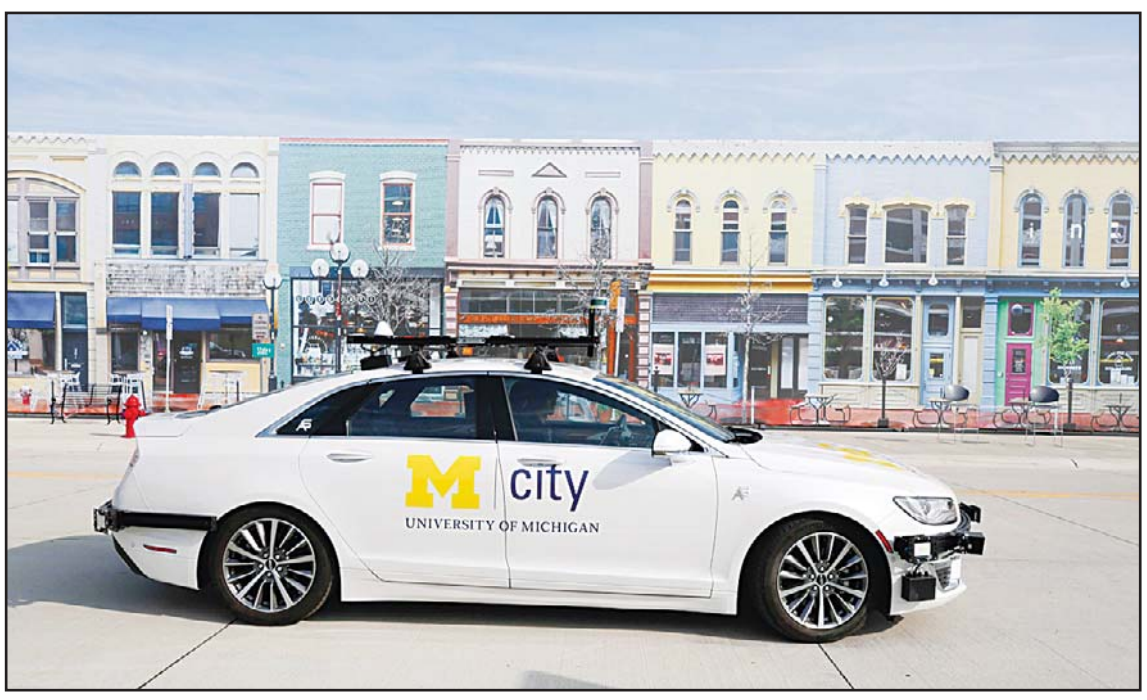
The US market amounts to $36 billion. Both dwarf the EU market, which is worth $6 billion and is growing more slowly.

EU ministers will discuss rule changes and the best strategy to reverse this trend. Proportional and flexible regulations are recommended to favour start-ups and alternative businesses, the Estonian paper says.

The fintech industry is a small part of financial services, but it poses challenges to banks and other conventional actors in businesses ranging from lending and payments to financial advice and insurance.

Those businesses could be hit much harder if small fintech start-ups started to team up with data-rich digital companies like Amazon or Google, Bruegel warned - they may hold more information on borrowers and lenders than banks.

Amazon already has its own lending service for small businesses, which has provided $3 billion in loans since it opened in 2017.



A Lincoln MKZ equipped with augmented Reality Technology maneuvers at the Mcity Test Facility on Sept 12 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The facility is the first purpose-built proving ground for testing connected and automated vehicles and technologies in simulated urban and suburban driving environments. (AFP)

More test cars hit public roads

US updates self-driving car guidelines

ANN ARBOR, Michigan, Sept 13, (AP): The Trump administration on Tuesday unveiled updated safety guidelines for self-driving cars aimed at clearing barriers for automakers and tech companies wanting to get test vehicles on the road.

The new voluntary guidelines announced by US Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao update policies issued last fall by the Obama administration, which were also largely voluntary.

Chao emphasized that the guidelines aren't meant to force automakers to use certain technology or meet stringent requirements. Instead, they're designed to clarify what vehicle developers and states should consider as more test cars reach public roads.

"We want to make sure those who are involved understand how important safety is," Chao said during a visit to an autonomous vehicle testing facility at the University of Michigan. "We also want to ensure that the innovation and the creativity of our country remain."

Under Obama administration, automakers were asked to follow a 15-point safety assessment before putting test vehicles on the road. The new guidelines reduce that to a 12-point voluntary assessment, asking automakers to consider things like cybersecurity, crash protection, how the vehicle interacts with occupants and the backup plans if the vehicle encounters a problem.

They no longer ask automakers to think about ethics or privacy issues or share information beyond crash data, as the previous guidelines did.

The guidelines also make clear that the federal government — not states — determines whether autonomous vehicles are safe. That is the same guidance the Obama administration gave.

States can still regulate autonomous vehicles, but they're encouraged not to pass laws that would throw barriers in front of testing and use. There is nothing to prohibit California, for instance, from requiring human backup drivers on highly automated vehicles, but the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration would discourage that.

Automakers — who were growing increasingly frustrated with the patchwork of state regulations — praised the guidelines.

"You are providing a streamlined, flexible system to accommodate the development and deployment of new technologies," Mitch Bainwol, the head of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, told Chao at Tuesday's event. The alliance represents 12 major automakers, including General Motors Co, Mercedes-Benz and Toyota Motor Corp.

'We're in full autonomy now'

Self-driving boats: The next transportation race

BOSTON, Sept 13, (AP): Self-driving cars may not hit the road in earnest for many years — but autonomous boats could be just around the pier.

Spurred in part by the car industry's race to build driverless vehicles, marine innovators are building automated ferry boats for Amsterdam canals, cargo ships that can steer themselves through Norwegian fjords and remote-controlled ships to carry containers across the Atlantic and Pacific. The first such autonomous ships could be in operation within three years.

One experimental workboat spent this summer dodging tall ships and tankers in Boston Harbor, outfitted with sensors and self-navigating software and emblazoned with the words "Unmanned Vessel" across its aluminum hull.

"We're in full autonomy now," said Jeff Gawrys, a marine technician for Boston startup Sea Machines Robotics, sitting at the helm as the boat floated through a harbor channel.

"Roger that," said computer scientist Mohamed Saad Ibn Seddik, as he helped to guide the ship from his laptop on a nearby dock.

The boat still needs human oversight. But some of the world's biggest maritime firms have committed to designing ships that won't need any captains or crews — at least not on board.

The ocean is "a wide open space," said Sea Machines CEO Michael Johnson.

Surpass

Based out of an East Boston shipyard once used to build powerful wooden clippers, the cutting-edge sailing vessels of the 19th century, his company is hoping to spark a new era of commercial marine innovation that could surpass the development of self-driving cars and trucks.

The startup has signed a deal with an undisclosed company to install the "world's first autonomy system on a commercial containership," Johnson said this week. It will be remotely-controlled from land as it travels the North Atlantic. He also plans to sell the technology to companies doing oil spill cleanups and other difficult work on the water, aiming to assist maritime crews, not replace them.

Johnson, a marine engineer whose previous job took him to the Italian coast to help salvage the sunken cruise ship Costa Concordia, said that deadly 2012 capsizing and other marine disasters have convinced him that "we're relying too much on old-world technology."

"Humans get distracted, humans get tired," he said.

Decades

Militaries have been working on unmanned vessels for decades. But a lot of commercial experimentation is happening in the centuries-old seaports of Scandinavia, where Rolls-Royce demonstrated a remote-controlled tugboat in Copenhagen this year.

Government-sanctioned testing areas have been established in Norway's Trondheim Fjord and along Finland's western coast.

In Norway, fertilizer company Yara International is working with engineering firm Kongsberg Maritime on a project to replace big-rig trucks with an electric-powered ship connecting three nearby ports. The pilot ship is scheduled to launch next year, shift to remote control in 2019 and go fully autonomous by 2020.

"It would remove a lot of trucks from the roads in these small communities," said Kongsberg CEO Geir Haoy.

Japanese shipping firm Nippon Yusen K.K. — operator of the cargo ship that slammed into a US Navy destroyer in a deadly June collision — plans to test its first remote-controlled vessel in 2019, part of a wider Japanese effort to deploy hundreds of autonomous container ships by 2025. A Chinese alliance has set a goal of launching its first self-navigating cargo ship in 2021.

OECD criticises European plan to tax internet giants

The OECD said Wednesday that a proposal by leading European nations to tax the revenues of US internet giants was at best an interim option until a global solution is found.

"A tax of revenue would be an interim solution," said Pascal Saint-Amans, director of the OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration during a hearing at the French parliament.

France, Germany, Italy and Spain have adopted a common position to explore options compatible with EU law to tax internet giants based on the revenues they generate in their countries.

Big EU countries have become increasingly frustrated that internet giants such as Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google escape paying much in taxes by basing and often billing their operations through low-tax EU states such as Ireland.

Corporate taxes are based on profits, with each country setting its own rates, as well the base on which the tax is calculated.

Generally speaking, "taxes on revenues, they're daft" as they can result in loss-making firms being forced to pay, said Saint-Amans, citing the example of streaming film and TV platform Netflix, which is still posting losses as it expands and invests in producing content. (AFP)

Hyundai Motor says India tax reforms a 'setback'

South Korean auto giant Hyundai Motor says that fresh changes to India's new national tax had shaken industry confidence in the country with firms already struggling to boost sales.

The Indian government launched a new national goods and services tax in July to replace more than a dozen separate levies and transform the $2 trillion economy into a single market for the first time.

The goods and services tax (GST) sets out four different rates of between five and 28 per cent for businesses instead of the one originally envisioned.

However, the government has made several changes to the tax regime regarding some products including sports vehicles, and luxury and hybrid cars, which auto makers complain have forced them to alter their pricing strategies.

"The recent rolling back to multiple rates with pre-GST classification has come as a setback to the industry, shaking the confidence of auto manufacturers," Hyundai said in a statement.

"We expect the coming festive season (Diwali) will witness low customer sentiment on new purchase decision.

"Further, in the absence of consistent and long-term policy the investment for new products and new technology will be adversely impacted," it added. Auto makers have also complained about a recent government push to switch cars to electric by 2030. (AFP)

German, Italian bond sales add to supply glut

Eurozone bond yields hold gains as Austria shocks markets

LONDON, Sept 13, (RTRS): Euro zone government bond yields were close to the highs hit on Tuesday after Austria said it would sell 3.5 billion euros of 100-year debt and other borrowers in the bloc lined up bond sales.

Bond yields tend to rise when there is a lot of supply in the pipeline and this week is particularly crowded as government and government-backed borrowers rush to access the market before the next European Central Bank meeting.

"I think everyone expects the ECB is going to announce tapering in October so they are trying to get their deals done now," said ING strategist Martin van Vliet.

"But the sell off in long-dated bonds really accelerated yesterday afternoon after Austria announced the deal size," he said.

Austria on Tuesday became the first euro zone country to sell 100-year bonds publicly via a syndication, and the 3.5 billion euro deal size dwarfed previous efforts.

Belgium and Ireland have sold "Century bonds" in the past, but only through a private placement, and for 50-100 million euros each.

On Wednesday, most euro zone government bond yields hovered around the highs hit on Tuesday.

The yield on Germany's 10-year government bond, the benchmark for the region, was unchanged at 0.40 percent after recording its biggest daily rise since early July on Tuesday. It is now well over the 0.286 percent low hit as recently as Friday.

The Netherlands sold 10 billion euros of bonds via auctions on Tuesday. On Wednesday, Germany sold over 2.4 billion euros of 10-year bonds, while Italy sold 8 billion euros of bonds of various tenors.

The European Investment Bank is to sell 3 billion euros of bonds maturing in December 2023, according to a banker working on the deal.

"The high-duration supply is causing indigestion in euro rates markets with weaker euro and firmer risk sentiment adding to the downside in Bunds," analysts at Commerzbank said in a note.

Lingering concerns about potential tapering in the European Central Bank's bond-buying stimulus also cast a shadow over bond markets after a report on Friday that rate-setters agreed last week to start reducing the bond purchases, with a decision likely at their next policy meeting on Oct 26.

EU to race UK for free trade deals

STRASBOURG, Sept 13, (RTRS): The European Union wants to launch and conclude free trade negotiations with Australia and New Zealand in the next two years, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said on Wednesday, opening up a potential race with Britain.

If Juncker's timeframe is achieved, the EU could nip in ahead of the UK, which is also courting both countries but cannot negotiate independent trade deals until it leaves the EU in March 2019.

Juncker said there was a good chance that the EU would agree the main elements of a new free trade with the Mercosur countries of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay and of an updated trade partnership with Mexico by the end of this year.

"And today, we are proposing to open trade negotiations with Australia and New Zealand," Juncker told EU lawmakers.

"I want all of these agreements to be finalised by the end of this mandate. And I want them negotiated in the fullest transparency," he added. The current Commission's term of office runs until Oct 31, 2019.

The EU is seeking to capitalise on new trade opportunities in response to a more protectionist "America First" stance from the United States under President Donald Trump.

"We will not miss any opportunity to step in. Whatever space the Americans leave behind, the Europeans will occupy," a senior US official said.

Juncker said, however, that while Europe favoured open commerce, it needed reciprocity from its trading partners.

"We have to get what we give," he said.

The European Union was not a group of "naive free traders" and would always defend its strategic interests.

UK pay puzzle deepens

Unemployment falls to 4.3 pct, lowest since 1975

LONDON, Sept 13, (RTRS): Britain's job market is defying the Brexit blues but wages are still in the dumps, data showed, suggesting the Bank of England will tread carefully on Thursday with any signals about when it may finally raise interest rates.

The sub-inflation pay growth could also add to the pressure on Prime Minister Theresa May to raise public sector wages, a day after she agreed to ease seven years of salary constraints — but only modestly and only for some state workers.

Wednesday's data underscored how the economy is no longer following the once widely agreed rules on the link between job creation and pay growth, creating a headache for the government in Britain and other rich economies around the world.

Britain's problem is all the more acute because inflation looks set to hit a five-year high of 3 percent soon, caused in large part by the fall in the value of the pound since last year's shock referendum decision to leave the European Union.

The Office for National Statistics said the unemployment rate unexpectedly fell to 4.3 percent in the three months to July, helped by the strongest job creation since 2015. That took the jobless rate further below the 4.5 percent level which the BoE has said would probably force employers to step up their pay increases to hire staff.

But wages rose by a modest annual 2.1 percent, weaker than a median forecast of 2.3 percent in a Reuters poll of economists and the latest in a long line of disappointing earnings figures.

The value of the pound fell on Wednesday as investors took the wage data as a sign that the BoE, which is due to make its latest policy announcement at 1100 GMT on Thursday, was unlikely to significantly strengthen its message that a rate hike could come sooner than financial markets have been thinking.

"Today's wage data suggests all is still not right in the economy," Ed Monk of fund manager Fidelity International said.

Only two BoE policymakers have been voting for an immediate rise in rates from a record low of 0.25 percent back to 0.50 percent, their emergency level for almost all of the decade since the global financial crisis.

They say the fall in unemployment will push up prices and inflation soon.

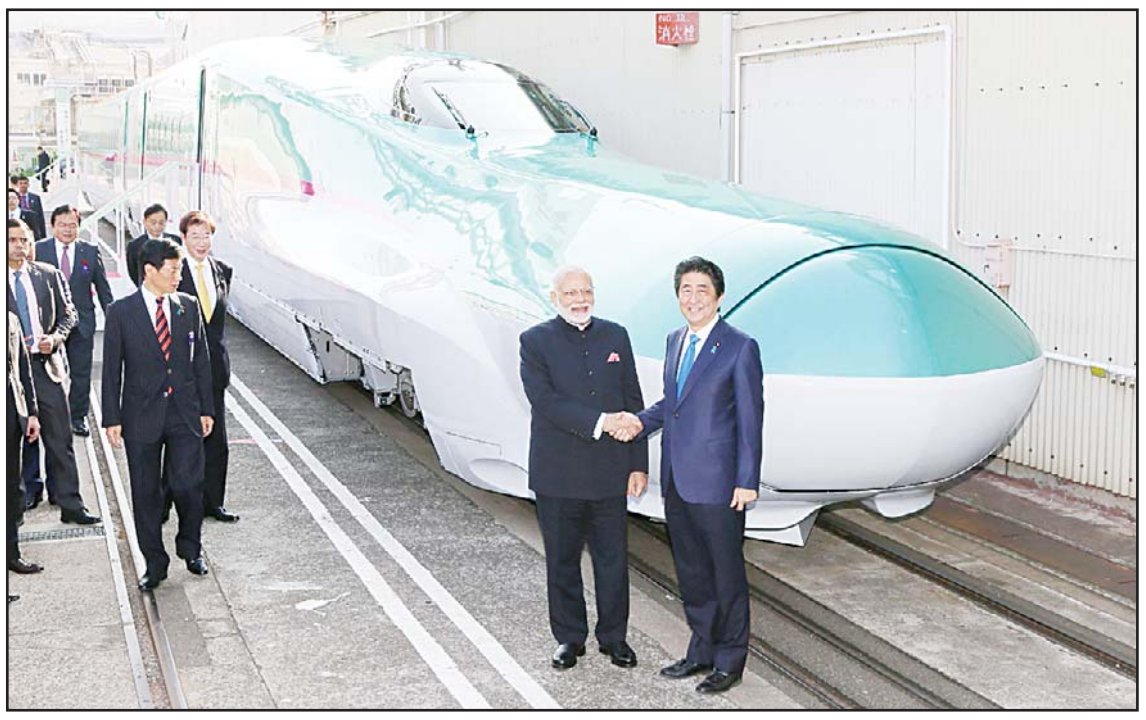
Some economists say BoE chief economist Andy Haldane will join the minority of dissenters this week, signalling a shift in thinking at the central bank that could lead to a rate hike at its subsequent meeting in November.

However, most economists do not expect a rate rise until 2019. They think inflation will move only a little higher before slowly fading next year as Britain's economy is subdued by the approach of its divorce from the EU in 2019.

In real terms, wages have been falling since April and dropped by an annual 0.4 percent in the three months to July.

Part of the weak wage growth reflects a seven-year policy of public-sector wage restraint to help cut government borrowing.

Britain's government — aware of the frustration among many voters over their squeezed spending power — partially eased its grip on pay on Tuesday when it said it would no longer limit wage rises for police and prison guards to the 1 percent cap for the public sector.



This file photo taken on Nov 12, 2016 shows India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (2nd right), and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe (right), shaking hands in front of a Shinkansen train during their inspection of a bullet train manufacturing plant in Kobe, Hyogo prefecture. As India's premier Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe prepare to break ground on the country's first bullet train project this Sept 14, experts say the collaboration could signal a massive leap for its overburdened and deadly railways. (AFP)

Collaboration could signal massive leap for deadly railways: experts

Modi, Abe get India's first bullet train going

NEW DELHI, Sept 13, (AFP): As India's premier Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe prepare to break ground on the country's first bullet train project Thursday, experts say the collaboration could signal a massive leap for its overburdened and deadly railways.

India's colonial-era rail network carries some 22 million passengers daily, making it one of the busiest in the world. But it is also among the most dangerous.

A government report published in 2012 said almost 15,000 people were killed every year in rail accidents, describing the deaths as an annual "massacre" due mainly to poor safety standards.

Modi has pledged to invest billions of dollars to modernise the country's crumbling railway infrastructure, which is plagued by delays, and the bullet train was one of his key election promises ahead of a landslide victory in 2014.

As New Delhi and Tokyo seek to forge closer ties to combat China's growing regional influence, the project offers a diplomatic and economic boost.

The premiers will lay the foundation for the bullet train network in the western city of Ahmedabad — connecting Modi's home state of Gujarat with India's financial capital Mumbai.

Japan is a pioneer in high-speed rail transport — with its Shinkansen bullet train ranked among the fastest in the world.

With projected top speeds of up to 350 kms (217 miles) an hour — more than double the maximum speed offered by the fastest trains operating in India — it will reduce travel time between the two cities from eight hours to at most three-and-a-half hours.

The new train, which will have a capacity of 750 passengers, is also expected to be safer than the country's creaking rail network, the world's fourth largest by distance.

Modi recently replaced his railway minister after a series of derailments, including one last month in which at least 23 people were killed in northern Uttar Pradesh state. Nearly 150 died in a similar accident in November.

The agreement for the 508-km network was signed in 2016, with plans to make it operational by December 2023.

Nearly 85 percent of the total project cost of $19 billion will be provided by Tokyo in soft loans, with repayment over 50 years.

Abe's visit to Ahmedabad comes ahead of Modi's 67th birthday on Sunday and many have dubbed it as part of his practice of "birthday diplomacy".

The right-wing Hindu nationalist leader hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping in Gujarat on his birthday in 2014.

"India's relation with Japan is designed to balance China's hegemony," Rajrishi Singhal, a Mumbai-based independent policy consultant, told AFP.

The two countries have close security ties and hold regular joint military exercises.

A proposed joint investment of billions of dollars in Africa is set to be the cornerstone of the relationship, Singhal said. "India truly values the relationship with Japan and we look forward to further boosting our bilateral ties in a wide range of sectors," Modi tweeted Tuesday.

Philippines approve $7.6b for subway, other 'infra' projects

MANILA, Sept 13, (RTRS): An interagency panel chaired by Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte has approved four major infrastructure projects worth 386.3 billion pesos ($7.59 billion), including bridges, roads and the country's first subway.

The Philippines, one of the world's fastest growing economies, is overhauling its ageing infrastructure to boost its competitiveness, create jobs and attract foreign firms hesitant about power costs, logistics headaches and supply chains challenges.

The approval and eventual completion of these projects "will pave the way for us to achieve our mid-term and long-term goals" as a nation, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia said.

The latest bundle brings the total number of approved projects to 35 worth 1.2 trillion pesos ($23.6 billion) since Duterte took office in July 2016.

The biggest plan approved on Tuesday was the 355.6 billion pesos Metro Manila Subway Project, the first of its kind in the Philippines, and seen as an urgently needed solution to the sprawling capital's notorious gridlock.

It will be funded by overseas aid from Japan and construction is expected to start early next year.

Also endorsed was the expansion of roads in the southern Philippines worth 21.2 billion pesos, construction of bridges in Manila valued at 6 billion pesos and the improvement of an irrigation system north of the capital, worth 3.5 billion pesos.

Under the government's "Build, Build, Build" initiative, Duterte has pledged to usher in a golden age of infrastructure through a six-year, $180 billion spending spree to modernise and build airports, roads, railways and ports.

A construction boom and a strong agriculture sector fuelled annual growth of 6.5 percent in the Philippines' gross domestic product in the second quarter.

Electric cars benefit Asia

Build batteries or lose jobs, auto industry tells Europe

FRANKFURT, Sept 13, (RTRS): Europe shouldn't rush to abandon the combustion engine and must build up its own production of electric car batteries to compete with China, auto suppliers and manufacturers said at the Frankfurt motor show.

The comments come as the future of the car has become a hot topic in campaigning ahead of Germany's Sept 24 election, especially after Britain and France announced plans to eventually phase out combustion engines to try to cut pollution.

Roberto Vavassori, president of the European Association of Automotive Suppliers (CLEPA), warned a headlong rush to electric cars would hand business to China, which along with South Korea and Japan dominate battery production for such vehicles.

"We need to provide a sensible transition period that doesn't give unwanted gifts to our Chinese friends," he said, estimating European automakers were paying 4,000-7,000 euros ($5,000-8,000) to China for batteries for every electric car.

Vavassori called for a European drive to develop the next generation of battery cells. He said carmakers and politicians should look at other ways of cutting vehicle emissions too, such as more efficient engines and synthetic fuels.

Germany's Daimler and Volkswagen both announced plans on the eve of the Frankfurt show to accelerate their shift to electric cars.

The head of Volkswagen's core auto division said on Wednesday that European industry should come together to create a regional supplier of batteries.

"For the initial phase, I still feel in good hands with the Korean suppliers, but I would appreciate if competition were to grow and a European consortium would emerge," VW brand Chief Executive Herbert Diess told Reuters.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has raised the possibility of state support to bring chip and battery production back to Europe and her Social Democrat challenger Martin Schulz has also called for investment in cell production in Germany. The stakes are high, with the auto industry as a whole providing around 12.6 million jobs in the European Union, or about 5.7 percent of the total.

Trade unions have been putting pressure on manufacturers to make electric cars in existing factories and invest in battery production in Europe, rather than outsourcing the work to Asia.

"Self-contained value chains are a central pillar of our industrial model and play a big role in the success of the German economy," Joerg Hofmann, president of the IG Metall union, told steel and car industry members on Wednesday.



General view shows spectators visiting the hall in which Jaguar, Land Rover and Ferrari are exhibited at the Frankfurt Auto Show IAA in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, on Sept 13. According to organisers, around 1,000 exhibitors from 39 countries will showcase their products and services. This year's fair running from Sept 14 to 24, will focus on digitization, urban mobility and electric mobility. (AFP)

Japan MUFG picks Amsterdam as post-Brexit EU base

TOKYO, Sept 13, (AFP): Japanese megabank MUFG said Wednesday it decided to pick Amsterdam as a base for its EU securities operation by moving some functions from London in preparation for Brexit.

Mitsubishi UFJ Securities Holdings has decided to apply for a licence to establish a new subsidiary in Amsterdam, MUFG said after narrowing down a list of favourites, which also included Paris.

Britain is at risk of losing the "passporting rights" financial firms use to deal with clients in the rest of the European bloc. That, along with political uncertainty surrounding Brexit negotiations, has spurred foreign companies that have set up shop in Britain, or established European headquarters there, to begin looking for alternative locations.

"The new subsidiary in Amsterdam will ensure that the group can continue to provide these services to its EU clients, even if the cross-border passport is lost as a result of Brexit," it said in a statement. It was not immediately known how many employees will move from London to Amsterdam.

The Financial Times has reported that MUFG has chosen Amsterdam, to where "hundreds of jobs" could be moved from among the 2,100 people the firm employs in London.

Pilots call in sick

Air Berlin 'cancels' dozens more flights

FRANKFURT AM MAIN, Sept 13, (AFP): Insolvent Air Berlin cancelled dozens more flights Wednesday as pilots again called in sick, despite warnings from the airline that the wildcat action could jeopardise rescue talks.

The mass "sick-out" comes ahead of a Friday deadline for potential investors to submit bids for Air Berlin assets.

"More than 30 flights" had to be scrapped early Wednesday as some 150 pilots handed in sick notices for a second day, an Air Berlin spokeswoman said.

Duesseldorf and Berlin-Tegel airports were worst hit by the cancellations, she said, advising affected passengers "not to come to the airport".

Thousands of travellers were already left stranded on Tuesday when some 200 of Air Berlin's 1,500 pilots suddenly called in sick, forcing the cancellation of around 100 flights.

Air Berlin has accused the absent pilots of "threatening the existence" of the airline, warning that the turmoil could scare off investors.

Lufthansa's low-cost subsidiary Eurowings, which leases Air Berlin aircraft and crew, was also affected for a second day.

Air Berlin filed for insolvency in mid-August, after its main shareholder, Gulf carrier Etihad Airways, unexpectedly pulled the plug on its cash lifeline.

Meanwhile, German Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt urged the pilots to end their "risky manoeuvre" and return to work for the sake of Air Berlin's roughly 8,000 employees.

"I can only appeal to everyone to come to their senses and let the flights take place. This is necessary to make a transition to new owners possible," he said at a press conference.

Alliance Pharma revenue

British specialty pharmaceutical company Alliance Pharma Plc on Wednesday reported an 8.4 percent rise in first-half revenue, helped by international sales of its scar reduction product and eye supplement.

The company, listed on London's junior stock market, said revenue rose to 50.3 million pounds ($66.9 million) for the six months ended June 30, from 46.4 million pounds a year ago.

Underlying profit before tax rose 1.7 percent to 11.9 million pounds during the period. (RTRS)

Name: Kuwait Sharia Compatible Indices

Providers: Al Madar Finance & Investment Co.

Description: Index of Sharia compatible companies traded on the KSE

Website: www.almadar-fi.com

Index name	Bloomberg ticker	Today's value as of	Today's closing value	Prev closing value	% change	1-week change	3-month change	YTD change	12-month change	24-month change
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Composite	AMIC	September 13, 2017	186.63	187.57	-0.50%	1.30%	6.36%	11.84%	25.81%	14.79%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Kuwait Only	AMIC	September 13, 2017	180.40	181.37	-0.53%	1.40%	7.50%	12.89%	25.75%	13.94%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Active	AMIC	September 13, 2017	88.09	88.57	-0.54%	-1.97%	5.53%	10.99%	23.18%	10.40%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Banking Sector	AMIC	September 13, 2017	299.25	304.31	-1.66%	1.09%	16.34%	12.44%	25.88%	3.52%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Investment Sector	AMIC	September 13, 2017	53.26	53.38	-0.22%	0.52%	2.92%	13.37%	13.67%	-0.42%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Insurance Sector	AMIC	September 13, 2017	21.56	22.39	-3.72%	-2.82%	-7.42%	36.73%	36.81%	-16.20%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Real Estate Sector	AMIC	September 13, 2017	52.65	52.49	0.30%	2.23%	6.43%	8.01%	15.49%	8.44%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Industrial Sector	AMIC	September 13, 2017	151.00	148.02	2.01%	2.10%	4.40%	24.58%	31.43%	20.82%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Services Sector	AMIC	September 13, 2017	243.97	245.22	-0.51%	1.57%	6.84%	23.58%	43.89%	37.61%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Food Sector	AMIC	September 13, 2017	292.79	292.81	-0.01%	0.05%	-19.75%	-22.98%	-19.20%	-20.78%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Islamic Sector	AMIC	September 13, 2017	146.08	147.96	-1.27%	0.40%	9.89%	13.23%	29.28%	11.29%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Non Kuwaiti Sector	AMIC	September 13, 2017	429.09	428.69	0.09%	-0.66%	-11.18%	-3.22%	35.71%	61.62%
Kuwait Stock Exchange Index - Price	KWSEIDX	September 13, 2017	6,924.92	6,905.98	0.27%	0.10%	1.68%	20.47%	27.54%	20.26%
S&P 500	SPX	September 12, 2017	2,496.48	2,488.11	0.34%	1.25%	2.40%	11.51%	15.63%	27.30%
DJ Islamic Index.	DJIM	September 12, 2017	3,437.79	3,432.03	0.17%	1.51%	4.88%	18.28%	16.62%	26.27%

oil market monthly report

KAMCO Research

Oil prices recover after a temporary blip

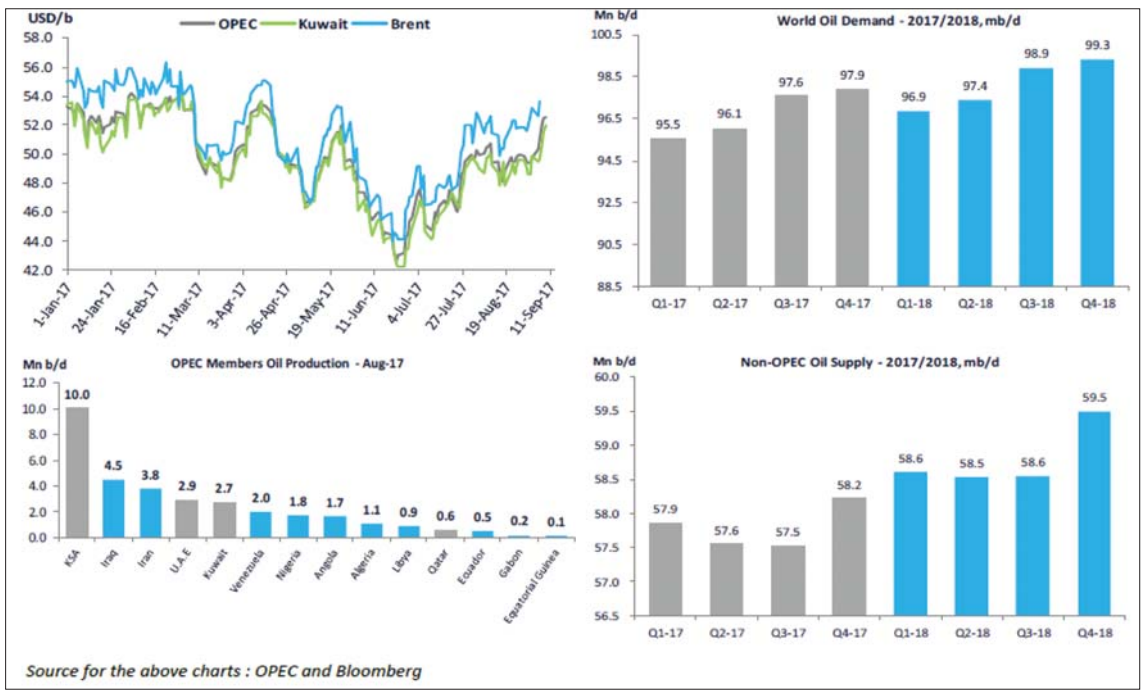
Oil prices remained steady during September-17 with OPEC crude recording a gain of 6.4% during the first week backed by lower-than-anticipated impact of hurricanes Harvey and Irma in the US. Other factors that supported prices included the ongoing discussion to extend the OPEC oil production cut agreement beyond the current deadline of March-18 as well as a weak USD that hit a more than 2.5 year low against Euro and multi-month low against a basket of currencies after it emerged that a third Fed rate hike for the year may not happen owing to weak inflation and slow growth.

The twin hurricanes in the US have led to higher crude inventories, as seen from API and EIA reports. Refinery utilization fell to the lowest since 2010 on the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Harvey. Moreover, the impact of Hurricane Irma on oil demand in Florida is expected to be less than that in Texas that was hit by the first hurricane during the last week of August-17. That said, oil production is also said to have declined in the US as seen from the decline in rig count data. This was reflected in EIA's production outlook that lowered production forecast for the US by 1% and 0.7% for 2017 and 2018, respectively. On the demand side, the impact of the hurricanes is expected to affect US oil demand, however, with reduced supply from shale producers as well as refinery outages, the negative impact of slower demand on oil price was limited.

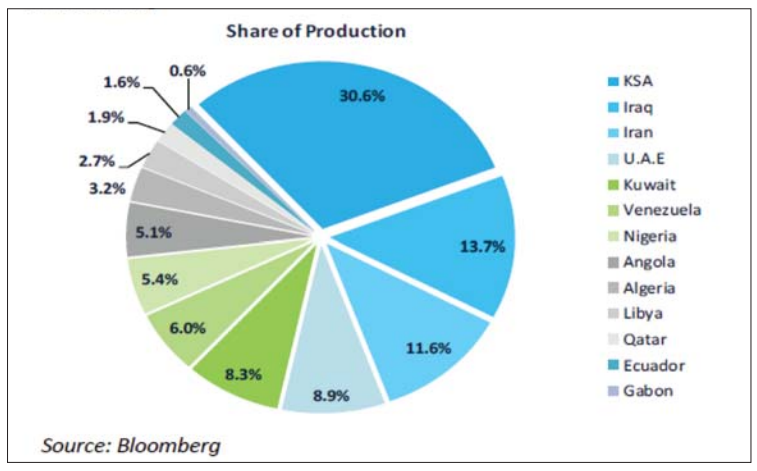
On the other hand, there has been growing consensus amongst OPEC producers that the ongoing oil production cut agreement can be extended if it is required to balance the oil market. According to reports, oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Kazakhstan and UAE are on the same page on keeping all options open to rebalance the oil market.

OPEC production declined marginally to 32.71 mb/d during August-17 primarily due to a steep decline in production in Libya and marginal decline in Saudi Arabia with its production now below 10 mb/d, while Nigeria raised its production by 40 tb/d. The disruptions in Libya affected the country's largest oilfield that stopped producing for two weeks. Meanwhile, OPEC's monthly report gave an optimistic view on oil demand and supply. OPEC forecasted higher demand in 2018 coupled with a marginal decline in supply as compared to its previous forecasts. The report also highlighted crude price backwardation for the first time since 2H-14 as a result of higher demand for immediate delivery expressing hope that the markets is expected to rebalance over the next year with a major decline in inventories.

KAMCO Research expects oil demand in the US to decline in the near term due to the two hurricanes, which is also expected to affect US economic growth for the Q3-17. Crude inventories in the US are reportedly up, which we believe would affect global oil prices in the near term even if refinery capacity is back online at a faster-than-expected pace.



Source for the above charts : OPEC and Bloomberg



Source: Bloomberg

Oil Prices

Crude oil traded in a tight range in August-17 and weakened towards the end of the month after Hurricane Harvey hit the US Gulf Coast affecting refinery operations and its likely fallout in terms of crude oil demand and inventories. According to reports, refinery utilization went down to the lowest since 2010 and as a result crude inventories surged 4.6 million barrels while gasoline stocks fell by 3.2 million barrels for the week ended 1-September-17.

In terms of prices, gasoline prices surged to 2-year highs due to the risk of fuel shortages, while gasoline futures declined. The expected severity before the second hurricane also affected oil prices, however, the real impact was much less than anticipated resulting in oil prices gaining after the hurricane actually hit the coast. Oil prices also firmed after key refineries in the US started coming online. Nevertheless, the likely impact on demand is not very clear as storms have a tendency to limit travel in addition to many vehicles being rendered faulty after the event.

Meanwhile, US oil rig count continued to decline and is now down in five out of the last eight weeks. According to Baker Hughes, rig count fell by 3 to 756, the lowest in 11 weeks, for the week ended 8-September-17. Oil rigs have also declined internationally. According to monthly data, international rig counts, excluding US and Canada, declined by eight to 715 during August-17 primarily due to subdued oil prices that continues to affect driller's profitability.

Average crude prices during August-17 strengthened across the categories. Average OPEC crude prices were up 5.7% to reach $49.6/b while Kuwait and Brent crude prices went up 5.4% and 6.5%, respectively. The positive trend continued in September-17 with OPEC crude recording gains since the start of the month and was up more than 6% by 8-September-17. Brent crude also surged and reached a 5- month high level of $53.63/b in September-17.

World Oil Demand

World oil demand growth projections for 2017 was once again upgraded in the latest OPEC monthly report to 96.77 mb/d. Demand is now expected to grow by 1.42 mb/d in 2017 after an upward revision of 50 tb/d primarily on the back of better-than-expected demand from OECD Americas and Europe during Q2-17. Quarterly demand data for OECD Americas was revised upwards by 100 tb/d for Q2-17 mainly reflecting strong demand during June-17 led by gains in transportation and industrial fuels, particularly gasoline, jet fuel, gas diesel oil and LPG. However, Q3-17 demand data was lowered by 40 tb/d owing to the disruptions related to the hurricanes.

Meanwhile, improving economic conditions in OECD Europe coupled with increasing vehicle sales and the existing low oil price environment resulted in an upward adjustment to demand data by 100 tb/d for Q2-17 and 40 tb/d for Q3-17. For the non-OECD countries, demand was revised down marginally by 7 tb/d for 2017 despite some upward adjustments, including 33 tb/d for China that was led by higher-than-expected demand in petrochemical (higher LPG demand) and transportation sectors. The downward adjustment for the non-OECD group primarily reflected slower-than-expected oil demand developments in India due to the aftereffects of the demonetization policy. In the Middle East, oil demand in Saudi Arabia increased for the first time in three months during July-17 by 0.14 mb/d to 2.8 mb/d due to higher fuel oil demand coupled with increase in demand for transportation fuels and crude burning for power generations.

Global oil demand growth expectations for 2018 was also revised up by 70 tb/d to an average growth of 1.35 mb/d to a total consumption of 98.12 mb/d. Higher demand in 2018 is expected to be driven by higher consumption in OECD Europe and China. The continued improvement in economic growth in Europe is one key factor for the revision, while the expansion in the petrochemical and transportation sectors in China is expected to result in higher demand for transportation and industrial fuels that would be partially offset by emission norms and fuel substitution with natural gas. Demand in OECD Asia Pacific was also upgraded slightly by 10 tb/d due to expectations of improving economy.

World Oil Supply

Global oil supply during August-17 witnessed a month-on-month decline of 0.41 mb/d and averaged at 96.75 mb/d, according to preliminary data, with non-OPEC supply declining by 0.32 mb/d to average at 57.68 mb/d during the month. According to preliminary data, US production from Gulf of Mexico and parts of Eagle Ford was disrupted after Hurricane Harvey, in addition to lower output from North Sea and Kazakhstan following seasonal maintenance. This decline was partially offset by higher output from Canada, OECD Europe and Brazil.

The share of OPEC output in declined by 10 bps to 33.8% following a decline in production during the month. For the full year 2017, non-OPEC oil supply growth expectation remained unchanged with an expected growth of 0.78 mb/d to average at 57.80 mb/d as the upward revision in supply from FSU was completely offset by downward revision in OECD Americas. In terms of individual country data, supply from Kazakhstan was upgraded by 0.04 mb/d for 2017 while US oil supply was lowered by 0.07 mb/d following disruptions related to Hurricane Harvey. The monthly OPEC report also highlighted additional production from start-up projects like Kashagan in Kazakhstan along with higher relatively higher investment in upstream projects.

Non-OPEC supply growth projections for 2018 was lowered by 0.1 mb/d to 1.00 mb/d and is expected to average at 58.80 mb/d. The downgrade revision primarily reflects lower oil supply from Russia and Kazakhstan. OECD Americas would be the biggest contributor to supply growth in 2018 as shale output is expected to increase by 619 tb/d after adding 0.5 mb/d in 2017.

OPEC Oil Production & Spare Capacity

OPEC oil production declined in August-17 primarily due to a decline in production in Libya and Saudi Arabia partially offset by higher production primarily in Nigeria. Average production rate for the group reached 32.71 mb/d, according to Bloomberg, while OPEC secondary sources showed a production rate of 32.76 mb/d during the month. Oil production by Saudi Arabia was lowest in three months as the Kingdom slashed production by 30 tb/d. On the other hand, the decline in Libya was primarily due to force majeure declared at several production sites following disruptions. According to the Libya's central bank, the disruptions resulted in an average daily loss of 0.35 mb/d following the shutdown of Sharara oilfield.

As a result of the decline in monthly production rate, OPEC compliance to the production cut agreement reached 89% in August-17, according to Reuters. UAE and Iraq, that were under pressure from the group to adhere to their share of production cuts, have stated higher compliance to the agreement during August-17. In terms of extending the production cut agreement, Kuwait's oil minister, Essam al-Marzouq, was quoted as saying that the decision to extend the agreement would be clear by November-17. While stating that OPEC's strategy in going ahead in the right direction he said that oil prices are expected to range between USD 50 - USD 55 a barrel through year-end backed by expectations of stronger demand in Q3-17 and a higher-thanexpected drop in inventories.

In its effort to limit crude supply, Saudi Arabia said it would cut crude allocations to its customers by 0.35 mb/d in October-17 despite seeing healthy and robust demand and refining margins in Asia. Aramco is said to reduce flows to Asia by 1.8 mb/d in October-17, affecting primarily its customers in Japan. In addition, UAE's ADNOC has also pledged to curb October-17 crude supplies by 10% across the three grades of oil it supplies.

On the other hand, Iran said it would achieve a production rate of 4.5 mb/d within the next five years as compared to its current production rate of 3.8 mb/d and crude exports are expected to reach 2.5 mb/d. The said increase in output is planned to come from additional 0.42 mb/d from the West Karoun oil field plus 0.28 mb/d from oil fields in central and southern Iran as well as the Falat Ghare oil company.

investment funds

	Funds	Fund Manager	Valuation	Valued date	Currency	Net Asset Value (NAV)	Prev NAV	Prev NAV Dated
National Bank of Kuwait								
Money Market Funds	Watani KD Money Market Fund II	NBK Capital	Weekly	Aug 29, 2017	KD	1.030	1.029	Aug 22, 2017
	Watani USD Money Market Fund	NBK Global Asset Management Co. Ltd.	Weekly	Aug 29, 2017	USD	10.240	10.239	Aug 22, 2017
	Watani KD Money Market Fund (Acc to Islamic Shariah principles) II	NBK Global Asset Management Co. Ltd.	Weekly	Aug 29, 2017	KD	1.028	1.028	Aug 22, 2017
	Watani USD Money Market Fund (Acc to Islamic Shariah principles) II	NBK Global Asset Management Co. Ltd.	Weekly	Aug 29, 2017	USD	10.095	10.900	Aug 22, 2017
	NBK Kuwait Equity Fund	Watani Investment Co.	Weekly	Aug 24, 2017	KD	0.692	0.684	Aug 17, 2017
	Gulf Equity Investment Fund	Watani Investment Co.	Weekly	Aug 24, 2017	USD	11.570	11.440	Aug 17, 2017
	Regional Bond and Sukuk Investment Fund	NBK Capital	Weekly	Aug 24, 2017	USD	9.985	9.984	Aug 17, 2017
Gulf Bank								
	Al Basha'er GCC Equity Fund	Kwt. Fin. & Inv. Co. & Gulf Fin. House	Monthly	Aug 30, 2017	USD	7.290	7.137	July 30, 2017
	Coast Fund	Coast Investment & Dev. Co.	Monthly	Aug 30, 2017	KD	0.685	0.651	July 31, 2017
	Sanaya Dow Jones Kuwait Index Fund	Industrial & Financial Investment Co.	Weekly	Jan 26, 2017	KD	0.561	0.561	Dec 30, 2016
	Markaz Capital Preservation Program 1		Monthly	Feb 28, 2017	KD	0.912	0.917	Dec 31, 2016
	Markaz Capital Preservation Program 2		Monthly	Feb 28, 2017	KD	0.942	0.945	Dec 31, 2016
	Markaz Gulf Real Estate Fund		Bi-annual	July 31, 2017	KD	1.393	1.396	June 30, 2017
Al Ahli Bank								
	Al Ahli Gulf Fund	Al Ahli Bank	Monthly	July 31, 2017	KD	0.896	0.909	June 30, 2017
	Al Ahli Kuwaiti Fund	Al Ahli Bank	Monthly	July 31, 2017	KD	0.841	0.806	June 30, 2017
Burgan Bank								
	Burgan Equity Fund	Burgan Bank	Monthly	Aug 31, 2017	KD	1.925	1.824	July 31, 2017
Boubyan Bank								
	Boubyan KD Money Market Fund	Boubyan Bank	Weekly	Aug 8, 2017	KD	1.066	1.065	June 25, 2017
	Boubyan KD Money Market Fund II	Boubyan Bank	Weekly	Aug 8, 2017	KD	1.012	1.011	June 25, 2017
Boubyan Capital Investment Co.								
	Boubyan USD Liquidity Fund	Boubyan Capital Investment Co		Aug 8, 2017	USD	10.230	10.231	June 25, 2017
	Boubyan Multi-Asset Holding Fund	Boubyan Bank		Aug 8, 2017	USD	10.730	10.730	June 30, 2017
Kuwait Investment Co.								
Local Fund	Al Raed Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Weekly	Sept 7, 2017	KD	1.087	1.077	Aug 31, 2017
	Kuwait Investment Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Weekly	Aug 31, 2017	KD	0.768	0.737	July 31, 2017
	Al Hilal Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Monthly	Sept 4, 2017	KD	0.704	0.713	Aug 21, 2017
	Al Atheer Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Weekly	Aug 31, 2017	KD	1.060	1.051	July 31, 2017
International	Global Bond Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Weekly	Aug 30, 2017	USD	25.830	25.700	Aug 21, 2017
	Diversified Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Weekly	Aug 30, 2017	USD	20.230	20.120	Aug 16, 2017
	European Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Weekly	July 30, 2017	Euro	21.260	21.780	May 31, 2017
	Pacific Equity Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Weekly	Aug 30, 2017	USD	32.330	32.140	Aug 16, 2017
	North American Equity Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Tw. Monthly	July 30, 2017	USD	18.770	18.340	May 31, 2017
National Investment Co. (NIC)								
	Al-Wataniya Fund	NIC	Monthly	Aug 30, 2017	KD	0.648	0.629	July 31, 2017
	Al-Darij Fund	NIC	Monthly	Aug 30, 2017	KD	0.373	0.366	July 31, 2017
	Mawarid Fund	NIC	Monthly	Aug 30, 2017	KD	0.493	0.492	July 31, 2017
	Zajil Fund	NIC	Monthly	Aug 30, 2017	KD	0.778	0.778	July 31, 2017
	Al Mada Investment Fund	NIC	Weekly	Aug 30, 2017	USD	0.805	0.790	July 31, 2017
Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz)								
	Mumtaz Fund	Kuwait Financial Center	Weekly	Aug 24, 2017	KD	4.342	4.237	Aug 10, 2017
	MIDAF	Kuwait Financial Center	Weekly	Aug 24, 2017	KD	3.289	3.210	Aug 10, 2017
	Islamic Fund	Kuwait Financial Center	Weekly	Aug 24, 2017	KD	1.678	1.648	Aug 10, 2017
	Markaz Arabian Fund	Kuwait Financial Center	Weekly	Nov 10, 2016	KD	2.990	2.920	Nov 3, 2016
	FORSA Financial Fund	Kuwait Financial Center	Monthly	June 30, 2017	KD	0.949	0.942	May 30, 2017
	Real Estate Fund	Kuwait Financial Center	Monthly	June 30, 2017	KD	1.396	1.413	May 30, 2017
	Markaz Fixed Income Fund	Kuwait Financial Center	Monthly	Aug 24, 2017	USD	11.590	11.580	Aug 10, 2017
	Mawazeen International Fund	Kuwait Financial Center	Weekly	March 26, 2017	USD	9.050	9.140	March 19, 2017
	Markaz MENA Islamic Fund	Kuwait Financial Center	Weekly	Aug 24, 2017	USD	10.880	10.880	Aug 15, 2017
Kuwait & Middle East Financial & Inv. Co.								
	Al Rou'yah Fund	KMEFIC	Monthly	Aug 31, 2017	KD	1.477	1.418	July 31, 2017
	Gulf Gate Fund	KMEFIC	Monthly	Oct 31, 2016	KD	0.944	0.918	Sept 30, 2016
Global Investment House								
Index Funds	GCC Large Cap Index Fund	Global	Weekly	Aug 31, 2017	KD	1.288	1.284	Aug 24, 2017
Equity Funds	Al-Mamoun Fund A	Global	Weekly	Aug 31, 2017	KD	0.697	0.708	Aug 24, 2017
	Al-Mamoun Fund B	Global	Weekly	Aug 31, 2017	KD	0.697	0.708	Aug 24, 2017
	GCC Large Cap Fund	Global	Bi-weekly	Aug 29, 2017	USD	152.380	152.320	Aug 22, 2017
	Global Saudi Equity Fund	Global	Bi-weekly	Aug 29, 2017	SAR	222.820	222.540	Aug 22, 2017
Sectoral Funds	EPADI Fund	Global	Weekly	Aug 29, 2017	USD	94.670	94.620	Aug 22, 2017
Islamic Funds	Global GCC Islamic Fund	Global	Weekly	Aug 29, 2017	USD	104.600	103.840	Aug 22, 2017
	Al-Durra Islamic Fund	Global	Monthly	Aug 31, 2017	KD	1.326	1.321	Aug 22, 2017
Kuwait Finance & Investment Co (KFIC)								
	Al Wasm Fund	KFIC	Weekly	July 31, 2017	KD	0.425	0.402	June 7, 2017
	Al Basha'er GCC Equity Fund	KFIC	Monthly	June 30, 2017	USD	7.026	6.940	March 31, 2017
KAMCO								
	KAMCO Investment Fund	KAMCO	Monthly	July 31, 2017	KD	1.136	1.066	April 30, 2017
	KAMCO GCC Opportunities Fund	KAMCO	Monthly	July 31, 2016	USD	115.890	114.380	Feb 29, 2016
	KAMCO MENA Plus Fixed Income Fund	KAMCO		March 31, 2017	USD	11.840	12.551	Jan 31, 2017
	KAMCO Real Estate Yield Fund	KAMCO		July 31, 2017	USD	10.090	10.180	June 30, 2017
	Kuwait Education Fund	KAMCO	Quartely	Sept 30, 2016	KD	1.457		
Wafra International Investment Co.								
	Wafra Equity Fund	Wafra Co.	Monthly	July 31, 2017	KD	0.926	0.890	June 30, 2017
	Wafra Bond Fund	Wafra Co.	Monthly	July 31, 2017	KD	1.050	1.047	June 30, 2017
	Masaref Investment Fund	ISKAN	Weekly	July 31, 2017	KD	0.856	0.853	June 30, 2017
	Fajir Islamic Fund	Wafra Co.	Monthly	July 31, 2017	KD	0.702	0.669	June 30, 2017
Al Aman Investment								
	Al Aman Islamic Fund	Al Aman Investment	Weekly	June 30, 2017	KD	0.330	0.328	May 30, 2017
Tharwa Investment Co.								
	Tharwa Investment Fund	Tharwa Investment Co	Weekly	Aug 3, 2017	KD	1.509	1.454	June 30, 2017
	Tharwa Islamic Fund	Tharwa Investment Co	Monthly	Aug 3, 2017	KD	0.620	0.594	June 30, 2017
Bank Al-Bilad								
	Al Seef Fund	Bank Al-Bilad	Daily	Sept 9, 2017	KD	0.454	0.441	Aug 27, 2017
Commercial International Bank								
	CIB Money Market Fund (Osoul)	CI Asset Management	Weekly	Sept 12, 2017	EGP	302.200	301.580	Sept 6, 2017
	CIB II Equity (Isthethmar)	CI Asset Management	Weekly	Sept 12, 2017	EGP	146.700	143.250	Sept 6, 2017
	CIB and Faisal Islamic Al Aman	CI Asset Management	Weekly	Sept 12, 2017	EGP	81.190	79.170	Sept 6, 2017
	Hemaya	CI Asset Management	Weekly	Sept 5, 2017	EGP	180.890	178.750	Aug 3, 2017
	Thabat	CI Asset Management	Weekly	Sept 12, 2017	EGP	179.680	179.340	Sept 6, 2017
	Takamol	CI Asset Management	Weekly	Sept 12, 2017	EGP	142.130	140.350	Sept 6, 2017
	Misr El Mostakbel	CI Asset Management	Weekly	Sept 10, 2017	EGP	24.500	24.330	Sept 5, 2017
Noor Financial Investment Co.								
	Noor Islamic Fund	Noor Financial Investment Co	Monthly	Feb 29, 2016	KD	0.613	0.645	Dec 31, 2015
CapCorp Investment Co.								
	CapCorp Local Fund	CapCorp Investment Company	Weekly	July 31, 2017	KD	0.964	0.914	June 30, 2017

Benz Trucks signs contract with Iran Khodro

Germany's Mercedes-Benz Trucks signed a contract on Tuesday with Tehran-based automaker Iran Khodro, parent company Daimler AG told Reuters, laying the foundation for resuming distribution of its trucks in Iran.

The deal between Iran Khodro and Mercedes-Benz Trucks includes creating a joint company that provides sales and after-sale services in the Islamic Republic, Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

According to Tasnim, a second deal would be also signed next month to create a joint venture in Iran for production of heavy vehicles including Actros trucks.

French PSA — the maker of Peugeots and Citroens — and rival Renault have pushed hard into Iran since its 2015 deal with world powers that saw international sanctions lifted in return for curbs on Tehran's nuclear activities.

PSA has signed production deals worth 700 million euros ($768 million), while Renault has announced a new plant investment to increase its production capacity to 350,000 vehicles a year.

Germany's Volkswagen and BMW are among those that have put Iranian ambitions on hold as they are concerned that any deal with Tehran might affect their sales operations in the United States. (RTRS)

Kuwait market extends gains in 'volatile' trade

Humansoft Holding soars 156 fils; NBK slips

By John Mathews
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: Kuwait stocks pulled higher on Wednesday as it extended the gains to second consecutive session. The main index climbed 18.94 pts in volatile trade to 6,924.92 points paced by speculative buying in select counters . The banks mostly sagged whereas other blue chips closed mixed.

The KSX 15 benchmark fell 4.22 pts to 1016.27 points while weighted index was down 1.36 pts at 439 points. The volume turnover meanwhile shrank further after hitting a multi-month high earlier in the week. 111.4 million shares changed hands — down 18 pct from the day before.

The sectors closed mixed. Industrials outperformed the rest with 1.69 pct gain whereas insurance shed 1.47 percent, the biggest loser of the day. Volume wise, financial services notched the highest market share of 33.3 pct and real estate trailed with 26 percent contribution.

In the individual shares, National Bank of Kuwait slipped 7 fils to 778 fils after trading 3.2 million shares and Kuwait Finance House was down 15 fils at 60 4fils with brisk trading. Humansoft Holding, the highest priced stock in the bourse, soared 156 fils to KD 4.050.

Zain rose 5 fils to 515 fils on back of 7.6 million shares and Ooredoo tumbled 60 fils to KD 1.190. Kuwait Telecommunications Co (VIVA) was up 4 fils at 809 fils and Agility extended last session's uptick with a 15 fils gain.

Gulf Bank fell 3 fils to 235 fils and Commercial Bank of Kuwait closed flat. The bank has posted a second quarter profit of KD 1.2 million — down 67.9 pct from same period last year.

The market opened flat and edged lower in early trade. The price index pulled up briefly before heading south again to plumb the day's lowest level of 6,866.21 pts almost half way into the session. It bounced back and traded sideways before revving up in the final minutes to close with modest gains.

Top gainer of the day, Unicap spiked 15.12 pct to 51 fils and Kuwait Cement Co climbed 7.14 percent to stand next. Gulf Investment House dived 9 pct, the steepest decliner of the day and Al Imtiaz topped the volume with 17.3 million shares.

Despite the day's gains, the losers outnumbered the winners. 46 stocks advanced whereas 58 closed lower. Of the 131 counters active on Wednesday, 27 closed flat. 4416 deals worth KD 26.47 million were transacted — a 23.7 pct drop in value from the day before.

National Industries Group eased 1 fil to 148 fils after trading 1.2 million shares and Gulf Cable climbed 6 fils to 510 fils. Heavy Engineering Industries and Shipbuilding Co was flat at 214 fils and Al Kout Industries rose 4 fils to 604 fils.

Jazeera Airways dropped 10 fils to 590 fils with anemic volume and ALAFCO held ground at 369 fils off early lows. Boubyan Petrochemical Co gained 10 fils and Al Qurain Petrochemical Co was up 3 fils at 345 fils.

Equipment

Kuwait Foundry Co was flat at 302 fils and Kuwait National Cinema Co clipped 2 fils. Equipment Holding Co trimmed 0.9 fil and Educational Holding Group was down 4 fils at 315 fils.

Eyas For Higher and Technical Education dipped 30 fils and Automated Systems Co took in 2 fils. PAPCO rose 4 fils and OSOS gave up 7 fils to wind up at 115 fils.

Combined Group Contracting Co dived 28 fils to 520 fils and Al Rai Media Group paused at 123 fils. Mezzan Holding Co inched 1 fil to 859 fils and AWJ Holding trimmed 1.8 fils. KPPC eased 0.2 fil and KCPC added 5 fils. KGL Logistics inched 0.9 fil to 52.9 fils.

NAPESCO gained 16 fils and Acico Industries added 4 fils. The company has posted a profits of KD 745,000 for the second quarter of 2017, a 35.8 pct drop from same period last year.

In the banking sector, Al Mutahed and Kuwait International Bank fell 1 fil each to close at 426 fils and 252 fils respectively whereas Al Ahli Bank was not traded during the session.

Burgan Bank ticked 1 fil up to close at 372 fils and Boubyan Bank gave up 5 fils extending Tuesday's losses. Warba Bank see-sawed narrowly before closing flat at 263 fils.

National Investment Co and KIPCO were unchanged at 110 fils and 358 fils respectively whereas Kuwait Investment Co was up 3 fils at 106 fils. International Financial Advisers eased 0.4 fil to 38 fils.

Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) slipped 8 fils to 102 fils and Coast Investment Co ticked 0.4 fil into green. Securities House Co rose 1.6 fils to 53 fils and KMEFIC dialed up 1.9 fils. Kuwait Insurance Co shed 15 fils and First Takafaul Insurance Co slipped 4.4 fils to 57.5 fils.

Bayan Investment Co dialed up 1.1 fils on back of 2.8 million shares and Sokouk Holding trimmed 0.5 fil. KFIC and Amwal Investment paused at 49.9 fils and 40 fils respectively whereas Noor Financial Investment Co eased 0.7 fil.

National Real Estate Co rose 3 fils to 132 fils and Kuwait Real Estate Co took in 0.5 fil. Salhiya Real Estate Co inched 1 fil down and Mabanee Co clipped 2 fils. Tamdeen Real Estate Co stalled at 405 fils.

The market has been largely upbeat so far during the week and has climbed 27 points in last four sessions. It has rallied 32 pts from the start of the month and is trading 20.47 pct higher year-to-date. KSE, with 188 listed companies, is the second largest bourse in the region.

In the bourse related news, Injazzat Real Estate Development Company registered a 32.3 pct drop to KD 511,900 for the second quarter of 2017 from Q2 of 2016. In the first six months, the profits soared 36.1 percent to KD 2.86 million

First Takaful Insurance posted a 53.45 pct in profits to KD 753,970 in the second quarter of 2017 from the same period last year. During the first six months of 2017, the profits surged 104.1 percent to KD 1.7 million

United Real Estate 's second quarter profits dropped 73.3 pct year-on-year to KD 280,280. In the January — June period, the earnings was down 52 pct to KD 1.44 million.

Mabanee Company posted a 1.55 pct rise in profits to KD 12.55 million for the second quarter from Q2 of previous year. In the first half , profits ticked 1 pct up to KD 24.61 million from corresponding period of 2016.

Gulf Insurance Group's earnings dived 27.6 pct year-on-year during the second quarter to KD 2.77 million . During the first six months of 2017, the profits dropped 21.6% to KD 5.59 million .

National International Holding Co recorded a 66.2 percent dip in the second quarter profit to KD 828,500 from same period last year. In the first half of 2017, the profits tumbled 56 percent to KD 1.2 million.

Mideast Stocks

Qatar sold by foreign investors

Savola, Almarai drag down Saudi

DUBAI, Sept 13, (RTRS): Shares of Saudi Arabia's top food producers, Savola and Almarai, fell on Wednesday after Savola said it was selling a small stake in the dairy maker, while Qatar's bourse closed at a 52-month low as foreign funds continued to exit.

The Riyadh index fell 0.3 percent with Savola declining 1.8 percent to 46.55 riyals, after initially surging to an intra-day high of 49.60 riyals in the opening minutes of the session.

Savola said it was selling a 2 percent stake in Almarai for 1.12 billion riyals ($308 million) through an accelerated book-building process, with 16 million shares on offer at 70 riyals each.

Analysts said the deal could help create liquidity for Savola in case it conducts acquisitions. If the sale is fully completed, Savola will record a profit of 694.1 million riyals in the third quarter, the company said.

Shares in Almarai plunged by their 10 percent daily limit to 73.60 riyals in the heaviest trade since late June. As of Tuesday's close it had risen almost 20 percent this year, outperforming the main market index by a large margin.

Banque Saudi Fransi fell 0.6 percent to 31.40 riyals, extending Tuesday's 4.2 percent loss after billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal's Kingdom Holding agreed to buy almost half of Credit Agricole's stake in the Saudi lender.

Analysts are split on how the deal would affect Saudi Fransi. Some believe it is good news to have Alwaleed on the board; others think Credit Agricole may ultimately sell all its shares, hurting the Saudi bank in the long run.

Arqaam Capital maintained its "buy" rating on Saudi Fransi with a target price of 35.80 riyals, saying the bank might lose a strategic partner if Credit Agricole sold the rest of its stake, but Saudi Fransi's high dividend was an attraction.

Shares in Kingdom Holding, which are often sparsely traded, added 1.9 percent in relatively active volume after the previous session's 5.1 percent gain.

Qatar's index fell 0.5 percent to a 52-month closing low as Qatar Islamic Bank lost 2.0 percent.

Regional Arab investors sold Qatari stocks when Saudi Arabia and three other Arab states imposed an embargo on Doha in early June. With no progress made towards a diplomatic solution to the row, other foreign investors have joined the selling in recent weeks, bourse data shows.

Abu Dhabi's index slipped 0.4 percent, weighed down by declines in blue chips; Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank fell 2.1 percent. But Dana Gas, the most heavily traded stock, climbed 1.3 percent.

In Dubai, the index closed almost flat. A Cityscape real estate exhibition in Dubai sparked some interest in property stocks early this week but the effect has worn off because of the uncertain outlook for the emirate's property market.

In Egypt, El Sewedy Electric rose 1.1 percent after the company said one of its subsidiaries had signed a deal worth 620 million Egyptian pounds ($35.2 million) with a local real estate development company, while another subsidiary had signed a contract with a Togo-based utility company for 44 million euros ($52.7 million).

The main index fell 0.2 percent mainly, because of a 2.1 percent decline in the most active stock, Qalaa Holdings

Saudi Arabia

■ The index fell 0.3 percent to 7,380 points.

Dubai

■ The index edged up 0.1 percent to 3,655 points.

Abu Dhabi

■ The index slipped 0.4 percent to 4,454 points.

Qatar

■ The index lost 0.5 percent to 8,428 points.

Egypt

■ The index declined 0.2 percent to 13,443 points.

Kuwait

■ The index increased 0.3 percent to 6,925 points.

Bahrain

■ The index edged down 0.1 percent to 1,306 points.

Oman

■ The index added 0.1 percent to 5,017 points.

KAMCO Boursa Kuwait Daily Report

Prepared by KAMCO Investment Research Department

13-Sep-2017

Index Returns & Market Capitalization	Value	Daily Point Change	Percentage Change DTD	MTD	YTD	Trading Indicators	Value	Daily Point Change	Daily Percent Change	YTD Daily Average
Price Index	6,924.9	18.94	0.27%	0.48%	20.47%	Volume (000 shares)	111,411	-24,622	-18.10%	246,215
KUWAIT15 Index	1,016.3	-4.22	-0.41%	3.19%	14.83%	Value (000 KWD)	26,475	-8,260	-23.78%	25,405
Weighted Index	439.0	-1.36	-0.31%	1.96%	15.50%	Trades	4,416	-196	-4.25%	5,266
Market Cap (KWD Million)	29,932.1	-94.18	-0.31%	1.94%	14.59%					

	Close KWD	Vol Traded (000's)	Trades	Value Traded KWD 000	Change in Price Daily (fils)	YTD* (%)	Beta	Dividend Yield 2016	P/E	P/BV	52 Week Price (KWD) High	Low	YTD Daily Avg. Volume (000 shares)
SENERGY	0.039	17	5	0.6	0.00	13.0%	1.28	0.00%	NM	0.52	0.075	0.028	1,796.7
IPG	0.390	0	0	0.0	0.00	6.8%	0.31	7.31%	9.7	0.62	0.445	0.310	19.3
NAPESCO	0.838	0	1	0.0	16.00	77.4%	0.20	5.34%	10.5	3.45	1.680	0.770	29.7
ENERGYH	0.034	109	19	3.7	-0.80	-19.0%	0.64	0.00%	NM	0.77	0.062	0.030	460.4
GPI	0.038	1,435	40	54.3	0.20	-11.4%	0.98	0.00%	NM	0.45	0.067	0.036	4,882.5
ABAR	0.080	52	16	4.2	0.00	-19.2%	0.40	0.00%	6.5	0.28	0.104	0.055	49.3
Oil & Gas		1,612	81	62.8		-6.7%		4.13%	NM	0.78			7,238
KFOUC	0.302	0	3	0.1	0.00	65.9%	0.49	3.31%	27.9	1.02	0.370	0.162	97.7
BPCC	0.660	471	40	307.2	10.00	33.3%	1.03	5.87%	33.9	1.19	0.670	0.445	341.0
ALKOUT	0.604	10	1	6.0	4.00	-8.5%	0.03	8.28%	9.2	2.01	0.700	0.570	2.2
ALQURAIN	0.345	75	14	25.7	3.00	50.0%	0.90	0.00%	10.5	1.09	0.370	0.190	700.2
Basic Materials		556	58	339.0		37.2%		3.25%	15.3	1.17			1,141
SPEC	0.097	1	7	0.1	1.00	21.3%	0.17	0.00%	NM	0.49	0.110	0.073	478.0
KCEM	0.465	85	6	37.2	31.00	13.4%	0.79	4.18%	19.7	1.86	0.530	0.370	49.6
CABLE	0.510	701	100	356.9	6.00	36.0%	0.98	0.00%	12.6	0.80	0.600	0.350	192.9
SHIP	0.214	107	10	22.8	0.00	27.4%	0.56	4.67%	6.0	0.81	0.244	0.144	128.0
PCEM	0.975	0	0	0.0	0.00	7.1%	1.02	8.21%	13.1	1.51	1.120	0.890	35.1
PAPER	0.310	0	0	0.0	0.00	31.4%	0.34	5.10%	18.3	1.71	0.510	0.230	38.3
ACICO	0.270	16	2	4.3	4.00	3.1%	0.70	5.27%	11.9	0.77	0.335	0.251	198.2
HCC	0.180	0	0	0.0	0.00	83.1%	0.11	0.00%	NM	1.22	0.216	0.110	2.7
NICBM	0.198	0	0	0.0	0.00	-5.7%	0.35	10.10%	NM	0.82	0.226	0.160	50.2
EQUIPMENT	0.046	51	4	2.3	-0.90	-21.4%	1.11	0.00%	NM	0.53	0.080	0.039	1,915.2
SALBOOKH	0.063	5	1	0.3	1.40	-2.5%	0.56	0.00%	NM	0.64	0.087	0.053	553.8
AGLTY	0.941	2,480	316	2,338.1	19.00	67.0%	1.59	2.75%	20.1	1.33	0.951	0.460	1,631.9
EDU	0.315	115	33	36.6	-4.00	52.9%	0.46	4.74%	14.1	1.90	0.480	0.192	129.4
CLEANING	0.049	5	1	0.2	-1.50	5.4%	0.86	0.00%	23.5	0.31	0.061	0.038	1,085.5
KGL	0.057	0	0	0.0	0.00	-11.7%	1.29	0.00%	5.1	0.27	0.073	0.041	658.5
KCPC	0.165	0	1	0.1	5.00	-4.1%	0.27	2.98%	14.2	0.80	0.200	0.135	5.6
HUMANSOFT	4.050	96	37	381.8	156.00	50.0%	0.14	3.94%	18.9	11.81	4.400	1.380	175.8
NAFAIS	0.200	0	0	0.0	0.00	-2.9%	0.18	0.00%	7.4	1.05	0.280	0.130	74.7
SHOOTING	0.026	278	10	7.3	-0.40	-2.6%	1.34	0.00%	NM	0.34	0.040	0.025	4,008.9
CGC	0.520	49	16	25.7	-28.00	-4.7%	0.49	3.49%	15.0	1.87	0.650	0.480	132.3
MTCC	0.056	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.0%	0.55	0.00%	18.3	0.42	0.058	0.047	0.0
UPAC	0.730	0	0	0.0	0.00	9.0%	0.28	11.21%	6.6	1.90	0.920	0.610	3.9
ALAFCO	0.369	33	3	12.2	0.00	53.8%	0.89	0.00%	17.0	1.29	0.384	0.208	221.3
MUBARRAD	0.074	330	14	24.2	1.10	25.3%	0.99	6.77%	4.8	0.60	0.087	0.047	1,050.4
LOGISTICS	0.053	243	8	12.8	0.90	-27.5%	0.90	0.00%	5.6	0.37	0.087	0.049	1,590.2
SCEM	0.083	4	1	0.4	0.00	-3.5%	0.45	9.64%	8.3	0.40	0.096	0.076	156.4
GCEM	0.081	55	2	4.5	-1.00	8.0%	0.77	12.35%	14.9	0.72	0.095	0.070	622.3
QCEM	0.083	65	2	5.4	1.00	10.7%	0.73	8.43%	17.8	0.61	0.096	0.065	8.3
FCEM	0.083	15	2	1.2	0.00	3.3%	0.55	6.00%	7.9	0.34	0.093	0.076	611.8
RKWC	0.085	23	4	1.9	0.00	-5.6%	0.72	8.82%	13.4	0.66	0.108	0.071	41.8
Industrials		4,757	580	3,276.4		30.1%		3.62%	16.9	1.24			15,851
CATTL	0.282	0	0	0.0	0.00	31.8%	0.43	1.71%	15.4	0.98	0.338	0.182	46.3
DANAH	0.070	275	10	19.3	-0.20	-19.2%	1.14	0.00%	NM	0.59	0.110	0.068	2,350.6
FOOD	2.000	0	0	0.0	0.00	-23.1%	0.75	29.92%	16.6	3.10	2.700	1.700	53.1
MEZZAN	0.859	13	2	11.0	-1.00	-7.6%	0.82	3.26%	18.4	2.56	1.040	0.740	598.4
Consumer Goods		287	12	30.3		-19.7%		21.71%	17.8	2.50			2,669
MHC	0.480	0	0	0.0	0.00	92.0%	0.06	4.17%	8.6	1.80	0.500	0.210	4.2
ATC	1.100	0	0	0.0	0.00	19.6%	NA	1.36%	NM	3.34	1.100	0.700	0.0
YIACO	0.175	0	0	0.0	0.00	-51.4%	0.74	0.00%	NM	1.11	0.460	0.151	29.5
Health Care		0	0	0.0		7.3%		1.74%	65.3	2.33			34
KCIN	1.348	1	5	1.6	-2.00	8.7%	0.12	3.67%	13.1	1.93	1.670	0.900	4.6
SULTAN	0.067	0	0	0.0	0.00	17.5%	1.32	0.00%	NM	4.09	0.100	0.050	304.6
EYAS	0.770	23	19	17.8	-30.00	100.0%	0.07	0.00%	19.0	3.16	1.590	0.335	21.3
IFAHR	0.280	0	0	0.0	0.00	53.8%	0.39	0.00%	NM	2.93	0.302	0.130	0.2
OULAFUEL	0.122	10	10	1.2	-1.00	3.4%	0.38	4.04%	12.4	0.80	0.142	0.108	241.3
MUNTAZAHAT	0.077	53	2	4.1	-0.70	-3.5%	0.52	6.05%	7.2	0.62	0.102	0.067	788.5
JAZEERA	0.590	1	4	0.8	-10.00	-23.4%	0.54	5.93%	19.2	3.77	0.860	0.376	103.3
SOOR	0.122	16	11	1.9	-1.00	5.2%	0.45	4.06%	14.8	0.80	0.138	0.108	93.2
FUTUREKID	0.123	2	1	0.2	0.00	16.0%	0.10	0.84%	9.9	0.70	0.130	0.097	7.3
ALRAI	0.123	104	6	12.8	0.00	-10.9%	0.62	16.16%	10.2	0.71	0.180	0.114	231.1
JIYAD	0.050	0	0	0.0	0.00	#N/A	0.47	0.00%	5.8	0.42	0.073	0.039	1,940.6
Consumer Services		211	58	40.5		14.6%		2.98%	56.5	1.72			3,736
ZAIN	0.515	7,608	296	3,904.1	5.00	25.6%	1.54	6.13%	14.2	1.89	0.520	0.325	4,344.1
OOREDOO	1.190	4	9	4.4	-60.00	-0.8%	0.86	7.10%	11.8	0.99	1.380	1.002	19.0
AAN	0.038	1,368	49	52.1	0.00	-8.2%	0.99	0.00%	NM	0.59	0.074	0.034	5,955.2
VIVA	0.809	55	41	44.3	4.00	-13.0%	0.72	1.24%	10.1	2.74	0.940	0.785	67.5
Telecom		9,034	395	4,005		13.4%		5.64%	13.6	1.64			10,386
NBK	0.778	3,263	207	2,526.7	-7.00	25.7%	1.35	3.61%	14.9	1.60	0.796	0.560	2,155.3
GBK	0.235	2,041	85	479.6	-3.00	-2.1%	0.72	2.84%	15.9	1.24	0.295	0.226	890.3
CBK	0.398	16	2	6.5	0.00	6.8%	0.58	3.41%	16.0	1.10	0.510	0.300	46.3
ABK	0.309	0	0	0.0	0.00	3.0%	0.45	3.53%	14.9	0.90	0.345	0.290	61.4
ALMUTAHED	0.426	101	10	42.8	-1.00	12.2%	0.83	2.37%	19.3	2.04	0.475	0.375	85.5
KIB	0.252	871	64	218.9	-1.00	22.3%	1.12	3.57%	15.2	1.03	0.270	0.180	1,644.7
BURG	0.372	10	1	3.7	1.00	28.1%	1.09	1.26%	10.6	1.20	0.377	0.295	857.9
KFIN	0.604	9,453	737	5,741.6	-15.00	23.0%	1.36	2.52%	19.8	1.94	0.650	0.460	3,688.9
BOUBYAN	0.459	466	44	212.4	-5.00	22.0%	1.14	1.24%	23.7	2.96	0.476	0.370	804.1
WARBABANK	0.263	369	99	97.1	0.00	18.5%	0.84	0.00%	56.6	2.70	0.285	0.160	2,110.5
AUB	0.219	10,022	141	2,180.6	-1.00	24.2%	0.50	7.46%	9.4	1.55	0.280	0.188	3,529.0
ITHMR	0.039	1,587	49	61.8	0.00	2.6%	1.08	0.00%	NM	0.89	0.082	0.030	13,794.6
Banks		28,200	1,439	11,571.8		20.1%		3.28%	15.5	1.59			29,668
KINS	0.275	58	7	16.3	-15.00	-1.8%	0.15	6.93%	7.7	0.82	0.315	0.226	14.2
GINS	0.875	0	0	0.0	0.00	30.6%	0.18	4.38%	15.7	2.07	0.950	0.500	6.3
AINS	0.420	0	0	0.0	0.00	-7.7%	0.15	8.18%	10.3	0.82	0.510	0.420	4.6
WINS	0.096	0	0	0.0	0.00	-6.0%	0.22	9.78%	NM	0.37	0.114	0.070	11.9
KUWAITRE	0.187	0	0	0.0	0.00	3.9%	NA	5.35%	10.3	0.63	0.196	0.180	1.6
FTI	0.058	9	6	0.5	-4.40	17.3%	0.13	0.00%	3.1	0.57	0.089	0.037	141.3
WETHAQ	0.051	3	2	0.1	0.00	64.5%	0.16	0.00%	10.2	0.48	0.064	0.026	188.7
Insurance		70	15	16.9		10.3%		5.83%	11.7	0.99			368
SOKOUK	0.048	500	17	23.6	-0.50	31.9%	1.43	0.00%	NM	0.40	0.065	0.027	6,290.1
KRE	0.067	6,098	131	408.6	0.50	9.8%	1.43	0.00%	11.9	0.45	0.085	0.049	4,243.3
URC	0.100	0	0	0.0	0.00	6.3%	1.04	4.53%	16.6	0.63	0.112	0.080	68.5
NRE	0.132	6,899	106	912.8	3.00	26.9%	1.47	0.00%	8.2	0.60	0.138	0.072	3,252.0
SRE	0.368	6	2	2.1	-1.00	3.7%	0.39	5.23%	13.0	1.37	0.410	0.340	62.0
TAM	0.405	23	4	9.1	0.00	-13.8%	0.55	2.34%	24.1	1.23	0.540	0.345	12.4
AREEC	0.150	107	6	16.0	0.00	-17.1%	0.29	0.00%	16.4	0.23	0.200	0.121	31.2
MASSALEH	0.040	48	3	1.9	0.00	0.3%	0.38	0.00%	NM	0.39	0.068	0.035	330.5
ARABREC	0.036	121	7	4.3	-0.20	17.1%	1.30	0.00%	NM	0.31	0.062	0.025	4,017.5
ERESCO	0.043	422	25	17.9	0.50	13.3%	0.61	0.00%	NM	0.34	0.055	0.037	1,948.0
MABANEE	0.813	100	12	81.4	-2.00	0.4%	1.17	1.16%	15.6	2.11	0.910	0.740	302.7
INJAZZAT	0.088	10	3	0.9	2.30	18.9%	0.93	5.48%	7.8	0.51	0.099	0.066	202.6
INVESTORS	0.024	1,527	37	35.9	-0.10	4.4%	1.36	0.00%	51.1	0.66	0.037	0.019	11,455.8
IRC	0.034	80	2	2.7	0.50	23.6%	1.36	0.00%	NM	0.60	0.047	0.023	1,613.2
ALTIJARIA	0.099	4,952	115	485.9	1.80	23.8%	1.02	4.99%	10.0	0.63	0.100	0.072	1,465.5
SANAM	0.043	1	1	0.0	-1.10	42.7%	0.35	0.00%	NM	0.51	0.062	0.027	150.2
AAYANRE	0.081	212	8	17.1	-0.10	24.2%	0.99	8.05%	10.3	0.45	0.099	0.059	382.6
AQAR	0.071	0	0	0.0	0.00	2.9%	0.30	8.05%	8.7	0.61	0.083	0.062	38.6
ALAQARIA	0.040	0	0	0.0	0.00	70.6%	0.83	0.00%	NM	0.61	0.050	0.020	911.6
MAZAYA	0.119	5,298	111	630.7	1.00	10.2%	1.08	6.05%	8.0	0.77	0.150	0.104	3,299.9
THEMAR	0.071	0	0	0.0	0.00	-20.2%	0.33	0.00%	NM	0.66	0.116	0.070	381.7
TIJARA	0.061	257	13	15.3	0.90	26.9%	0.45	0.00%	28.8	0.56	0.071	0.037	301.5
TAAMEER	0.036	300	11	10.4	0.50	57.8%	0.47	0.00%	NM	0.47	0.055	0.019	5,642.8
ARKAN	0.089	19	4	1.7	-0.20	-3.5%	0.26	8.88%	11.4	0.70	0.097	0.074	559.5
ARGAN	0.180	0	0	0.0	0.00	8.4%	0.34	5.35%	32.1	0.56	0.202	0.150	90.6
ABYAAR	0.027	983	27	26.1	0.10	17.8%	1.29	0.00%	NM	0.33	0.042	0.019	17,640.2
MUNSHAAT	0.060	10	5	0.6	0.00	7.1%	1.25	0.00%	NM	0.27	0.085	0.042	3,011.7
FIRSTDUBAI	0.052	41	5	2.1	0.50	-17.5%	1.12	0.00%	51.4	0.77	0.090	0.040	1,524.5
KBT	0.051	343	25	17.5	0.60	22.9%	0.85	3.92%	8.4	0.44	0.066	0.034	2,963.3
REAM	0.375	0	0	0.0	0.00	91.3%	0.06	1.33%	44.9	2.49	0.600	0.186	309.1
MENA	0.020	0	0	0.0	0.00	-1.0%	0.93	0.00%	NM	0.34	0.041	0.018	2,434.3
ALMUDON	0.041	571	29	23.1	0.60	6.5%	0.86	0.00%	13.4	0.29	0.070	0.025	4,204.6
MARAKEZ	0.047	1	1	0.0	-2.30	78.1%	0.53	0.00%	NM	0.32	0.058	0.026	335.0
REMAL	0.063	50	3	3.1	0.00	-6.1%	0.97	0.00%	24.2	0.53	0.091	0.035	5,103.7
AWJ	0.082	26	7	2.0	-1.80	26.2%	0.75	9.14%	7.1	0.44	0.114	0.045	1,244.0
Real Estate		29,007	720	2,753.1		3.7%		2.42%	20.4	0.82			85,825
KINV	0.106	50	4	5.2	3.00	23.3%	0.70	6.56%	6.0	0.46	0.112	0.075	279.3
FACIL	0.189	158	4	29.9	-1.00	21.2%	0.66	8.55%	10.9	0.60	0.190	0.152	221.8
IFA	0.038	427	12	16.3	-0.40	22.6%	1.19	0.00%	17.8	0.55	0.057	0.027	3,696.6
NINV	0.110	1,097	46	121.0	0.00	15.8%	1.21	4.37%	NM	0.55	0.148	0.095	1,988.5
KPROJ	0.358	103	26	36.4	0.00	-28.4%	1.15	6.39%	16.7	1.16	0.580	0.332	611.5
COAST	0.046	180	8	8.2	0.40	18.2%	1.59	0.00%	10.5	0.52	0.064	0.037	4,132.4
SECH	0.053	1,638	42	83.6	1.60	20.5%	0.62	0.00%	56.2	0.33	0.070	0.037	4,441.7
ARZAN	0.036	190	8	6.8	-0.80	9.8%	0.55	0.00%	32.2	0.24	0.050	0.029	596.8
MARKAZ	0.102	73	10	7.5	-8.00	15.9%	1.22	5.32%	8.8	0.59	0.118	0.077	14.0
KMEFIC	0.029	7	4	0.2	1.90	23.4%	0.31	0.00%	NM	0.51	0.043	0.019	306.5
ALAMAN	0.051	11	2	0.6	0.30	4.9%	0.80	9.82%	15.5	0.48	0.067	0.040	1,021.0
ALOLA	0.049	367	15	17.8	-0.10	7.5%	0.90	0.00%	38.4	0.33	0.069	0.043	2,565.6
ALMAL	0.015	0	0	0.0	0.00	-21.5%	1.44	0.00%	NM	0.60	0.032	0.014	7,224.8
GIH	0.026	1,265	80	33.6	-2.60	-13.0%	0.89	0.00%	NM	0.55	0.060	0.023	3,337.8
AAYAN	0.047	3,307	84	154.4	0.90	44.3%	1.09	0.00%	4.9	0.45	0.064	0.025	10,054.4
BAYANINV	0.052	2,826	83	145.6	1.10	53.7%	1.45	0.00%	NM	0.59	0.065	0.028	3,313.6
OSOUL	0.062	0	0	0.0	0.00	1.6%	0.83	0.00%	NM	0.55	0.075	0.040	145.4
KFIC	0.050	105	6	5.2	0.00	34.9%	0.42	0.00%	47.3	0.42	0.055	0.032	57.4
KAMCO	0.080	0	0	0.0	0.00	-17.5%	0.31	5.64%	22.7	0.57	0.120	0.065	95.7
NIH	0.070	0	1	0.0	0.00	14.8%	0.29	0.00%	15.3	0.39	0.086	0.050	450.4
UNICAP	0.051	0	1	0.0	4.50	9.3%	0.34	0.00%	7.4	0.48	0.062	0.034	1,296.5
MADAR	0.022	1,802	49	40.2	-0.10	77.6%	0.42	0.00%	NM	0.58	0.024	0.013	314.9
ALDEERA	0.033	6	2	0.2	-1.00	3.1%	0.89	0.00%	2.8	0.56	0.051	0.027	576.4
ALSALAM	0.051	294	15	15.0	-1.40	4.3%	0.96	0.00%	NM	0.40	0.069	0.038	2,938.3
EKTTITAB	0.037	172	8	6.0	-0.10	-0.8%	1.29	0.00%	NM	0.52	0.058	0.032	1,653.6
ALMADINA	0.045	261	16	11.8	-0.90	4.4%	1.14	0.00%	47.9	0.79	0.064	0.041	3,247.3
NOOR	0.061	380	23	22.7	-0.60	34.9%	1.33	0.00%	8.9	0.57	0.066	0.037	1,630.5
TAMINV	0.310	0	0	0.0	0.00	10.7%	0.60	3.22%	18.7	0.59	0.330	0.240	22.0
KSHC	0.036	953	25	34.6	0.00	21.3%	1.31	8.24%	13.0	0.35	0.061	0.026	2,616.4
ASIYA	0.047	40	5	1.9	-0.40	49.2%	1.07	0.00%	NM	0.53	0.048	0.028	783.6
GNAHC	0.036	687	28	24.4	0.20	-0.6%	1.50	0.00%	NM	0.40	0.054	0.028	1,946.6
AMWAL	0.040	25	6	1.0	0.00	66.7%	0.42	0.00%	27.8	0.46	0.093	0.015	1,102.2
ALIMTIAZ	0.184	17,314	224	3,162.7	2.00	80.4%	1.00	4.99%	5.0	1.03	0.200	0.070	10,697.2
MANAZEL	0.040	981	36	39.5	-1.50	43.6%	1.71	0.00%	4.1	0.30	0.065	0.024	6,539.3
NIND	0.000	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00%	0.0	0.00	0.000	0.000	0.0
BIIHC	0.045	8	3	0.3	-1.60	81.6%	1.23	0.00%	NM	0.45	0.053	0.018	2,494.8
AGHC	0.089	130	9	11.6	-0.90	37.1%	0.48	0.00%	30.5	0.56	0.112	0.048	621.8
KPPC	0.054	516	30	27.5	-0.20	24.9%	1.25	0.00%	35.2	0.34	0.063	0.042	1,780.0
TAHSSILAT	0.031	5	2	0.2	-0.50	-27.9%	0.12	0.00%	NM	0.77	0.049	0.025	21.8
EKHOLDING	0.175	0	0	0.0	0.00	-0.6%	0.77	0.00%	10.3	1.44	0.216	0.126	108.9
GFH	0.150	30	4	4.5	0.00	-10.7%	1.24	0.00%	4.1	0.98	0.246	0.081	882.7
INOVEST	0.124	478	47	58.2	5.00	59.0%	0.87	5.61%	5.3	0.88	0.132	0.058	1,100.7
Financial Services		37,102	999	4,314.0		-20.1%		3.53%	13.6	0.71			89,085
ASC	0.165	7	4	1.1	2.00	-9.9%	0.31	0.00%	10.1	1.21	0.330	0.151	10.8
OSOS	0.115	569	55	63.9	-7.00	-11.5%	0.96	13.04%	NM	0.94	0.260	0.106	203.0
Technology		576	59	65.0		-50.3%		5.36%	NM	1.08			214
Total Market		111,411	4,416	26,474.8		3.4%		4.26%	16.1	1.32			246,215

P/E & P/BV multiples are calculated based on current prices and TTM 1H-2017 net profit and shareholders' equity as of 30-June-17, respectively. Dividend Yield for individual stocks is based on 2016 cash dividends and current prices, the sectors' average is a weighted average based on market cap. Companies with different fiscal years are treated on an individual basis. (NA not applicable, NM Not meaningful). # Avg. daily trading volume for new companies is based on the number of trading days since the listing date, as for the sectors and the market it is based on trading days since the beginning of the year. *YTD-17 return for individual stocks and sectors is calculated based on the change in market cap. For more information please contact KAMCO Investment Research Dept. at e-mail: kamco_research@kamconline.com. http:// www.kamconline.com

Facebook tightens rules on online ads

Facebook has tightened its rules on who can make money from advertising on its network, responding to criticism that it is too simple for providers of fake news and sensational headlines to cash in.

The world's largest social network implemented the new standards with immediate effect to make it clearer which publishers can earn money on Facebook and with what content.

The new standards coincided with an appearance by Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg in Germany, one of Facebook's toughest critics on hate speech and safeguarding privacy.

Facebook, together with Alphabet's Google, accounts for around two fifths of internet advertising, which is forecast by consultancy Zenith to grow by 13 percent to $205 billion this year — overtaking television as the biggest channel for companies to pitch their wares to consumers.

Marketing executives have criticised Facebook for failing to ensure that the digital ads distributed to its more than 2 billion active users reach their intended audience. (RTRS)

with fossil fuel bans, e-cars shift into higher gear

Beijing's announcement that it is considering joining France and Britain in banning petrol and diesel cars from its smog-clogged roads promises to accelerate a push towards electric vehicles -- a race in which Chinese carmakers have everything to gain.

As the global auto industry braces for a shake up, here's what you need to know.

While France and Britain have said they plan to outlaw sales of new diesel and petrol cars by 2040, Beijing has not yet set a date for its proposed ban.

But if China, the world's largest car market, turns its back on fossil-fuel powered cars, it could change the auto industry forever.

With annual sales of some 24 million vehicles, China is home to one in every four new cars on the planet. By 2024, analysts at AlixPartners forecast sales will climb to 42 million annually, accounting for 36 percent of the global market.

By comparison, France and Britain each record sales of some two million new cars per year.

"If China says no more ICE (internal combustion engine), the rest of the world will follow because the rest of the world can't lose China's market." (AFP)

the bottomline

DUBAI: Holders of about $700 million of Islamic bonds issued by Abu Dhabi-listed **Dana Gas** have submitted a proposal to restructure the sukuk to the company's management, a committee representing the holders said on Wednesday.

Dana has been refusing to redeem the sukuk, which are due to mature in October, on the grounds that changes to Islamic financial practice in recent years make them unlawful in the United Arab Emirates - a claim which the holders reject.

Terms of the proposal include a cash paydown to sukuk holders of $300 million, an extension of the sukuk's maturity by three years, and maintaining the sukuk's current rates of periodic profit distribution to investors. (RTRS)

❑ ❑ ❑

OMAHA: Shareholders of Canadian lender **Home Capital Group** have rejected Warren Buffett's offer to buy a second large block of stock in the company.

In June, **Berkshire Hathaway** agreed to lend $1.5 billion to Home Capital and bought roughly 20 percent of Home Capital's stock.

That deal included a provision for Berkshire to buy another 20 percent of Home Capital's stock for $10.30 per share if shareholders agreed. But 88 percent of non-Berkshire shareholders rejected that investment Tuesday. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑

NEW YORK: **Target** is stocking its stores and warehouses with even more extra staff this holiday shopping season, hoping to win customers with easy-to-find goods and fast service.

It's hiring 100,000 people to work at its more than 1,800 stores during its busiest time, up 40 percent from last year.

Target said Wednesday that the seasonal hires, an increase from the 70,000 people it hired for the holidays last year, will stock shelves or fulfill online orders that customers pick up in stores. The retailer also plans to hire 4,500 people to help pack and ship online orders at its warehouses. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑

NEW YORK: Shares of **Centene** are up sharply before the opening bell after the Medicaid coverage provider said it will expand into New York through a $3.75 billion acquisition of Fidelis Care.

Shares of Centene are up sharply before the opening bell after the Medicaid coverage provider said it will expand into New York through a $3.75 billion acquisition of Fidelis Care.

Leerink analyst Ana Gupte said the deal, announced late Tuesday, puts Centene in the market with a solid Medicaid presence and a profitable business on the Affordable Care Act's public insurance exchange. Centene says the privately held, nonprofit Fidelis had $4.8 billion in revenue through the first six months of the year. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑

LONDON: British budget airline **easyJet** launched a new booking platform on Wednesday to allow customers to more easily connect onto long-haul flights with other airlines, moving ahead of its rivals in a potentially lucrative market.

Both easyJet and **Ryanair** have for some time been looking at so-called feeder flights to attract more customers, and have often said traditional carriers should use low cost rivals to bring passengers to their hubs.

The move is an attempt to muscle into the market for connections at international hub airports currently dominated by the big global airline alliances - **Oneworld**, **SkyTeam** and **Star Alliance**.

EasyJet passengers will be able to buy other airlines' flights on easyJet.com and will also initially be able to connect onto long-haul flights provided by Norwegian Air Shuttle and WestJet at London Gatwick using the airport's Gatwick Connect scheme. (RTRS)

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LONDON: Britain's **Clinigen Group** on Wednesday agreed to buy Quantum Pharma for 150.3 million pounds ($200 million), bringing together two companies that specialise in the supply of unlicensed medicines to doctors and hospitals.

Clinigen said the deal would accelerate its global ambitions in the ethical supply of unlicensed medicines - drugs that are either in clinical trials or are licensed in other markets - to doctors who want to use them for their patients.

Chief Executive Shaun Chilton said it would also increase its ability to convert unlicensed drugs into licensed products. (RTRS)

❑ ❑ ❑

THE HAGUE: Dutch carrier **KLM** has cancelled 60 flights to and from European destinations as heavy winds buffeting Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport reduced the number of runways that could be used.

Airport spokesman Paul Weber said 75 flights in total were cancelled Wednesday due to "restricted runway capacity." Weber says the busy airport is expected to experience delays throughout the day.

The Royal Dutch Meteorological Institute has issued a warning for western coastal regions of the Netherlands of wind gusting up to 120 kilometers per hour (75 mph). (AP)

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SYDNEY: Australia's prudential regulator said on Wednesday that money-laundering accusations levelled at the **Commonwealth Bank** of Australia had not affected depositors there.

"It's had negligible impact in terms of loss of customers, loss of deposits, or any other impact that would make a material difference to the viability of the bank," Australian Prudential Regulation Authority Chairman Wayne Byers told a parliamentary committee in Canberra.

Financial intelligence agency AUSTRAC sued Commonwealth Bank on Aug. 3 over more than 50,000 suspected breaches of money-laundering laws. (RTRS)

❑ ❑ ❑

TOKYO: Cash-strapped Japanese industrial giant **Toshiba** said Wednesday it had picked a consortium led by US investor **Bain Capital** as the leading candidate to buy its prized chip business in a deal reportedly worth some $18 billion.

The development was the latest twist in a long-running saga as Toshiba agonises between three groups of suitors for its lucrative chip business.

The Bain Capital-led group also includes state-backed Development Bank of Japan and the public-private Innovation Network Corp. of Japan as well as South Korean chipmaker SK Hynix. (AFP)

Apple's dip takes shine off global stock rally; dollar extends gains

Oil prices rise as IEA sees higher demand

NEW YORK, Sept 13, (Agencies): Global equity markets edged lower on Wednesday, pulled lower over concerns about the launch of Apple's new iPhone X, while the dollar rose after a report showed US producer prices rebounded in August, suggesting a strong economy.

The yield on European and US government debt rose, with the benchmark 10-year US Treasury hitting a 2-1/2 week high.

Oil prices rose after the International Energy Agency (IEA) said a global surplus was starting to shrink, even though US data showed another big increase in crude inventories due to the ongoing impact from Hurricane Harvey on the Houston energy hub.

European equities pared earlier losses to edge higher thanks to gains in oil and banking stocks, which offset weak chipmakers and a fall in miners.

Chipmakers that supply Apple were among the worst performers, with AMS down 3.9 percent and Dialog Semiconductor off 1.6 percent. STMicro ended up 0.1 percent.

Chipmakers have been the best performing among Europe's tech stocks this year, accounting for a large chunk of the sector's outperformance. AMS shares have gained 165 percent year-to-date.

MSCI's all-country world stock index shed 0.19 percent, but the pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 index rose 0.10 percent and the Euro STOXX 50 rose 0.3 percent.

Investors will need to gauge how strong demand will be for the iPhone X, as its price will start at $999, he said.

The dollar index, which tracks the currency against a basket of six major rivals, was up 0.56 percent at 92.396.

The index rose after the US Labor Department said its producer price index for final demand increased 0.2 percent in August after slipping 0.1 percent in July. The rebound was driven by a surge in the cost of gasoline.

The euro fell 0.59 percent to $1.1894 while the Japanese yen weakened 0.39 percent versus the greenback at 110.61 per dollar.

Oil prices jumped after the IEA report but then pared gains.

US crude rose 1.62 percent to $49.01 per barrel and Brent was last at $54.90, up 1.16 percent on the day.

US

US stocks were little changed on Wednesday as Apple-led losses in tech stocks were offset by gains in consumer discretionary and energy stocks, which helped the S&P 500 inch up to a record intra-day high.

Apple dropped 1.2 percent on concerns about the newly launched iPhone X's hefty price tag and its later-than-expected availability date of Nov 3. The stock was the top drag on all the three major indexes.

Indexes were also supported by President Donald Trump's efforts to push ahead with his plan to cut tax rates. House Speaker Paul Ryan said an outline will be unveiled during the work week beginning Sept 25.

Wall Street is coming off a two-day rally that resulted in the three major indexes finishing at all-time highs on Tuesday and the S&P touching a record intra-day high.

The indexes have stayed near record levels this year despite periodic setbacks caused by turmoil in the White House, the timing of US interest rate hikes, doubts about Trump's ability to push through his pro-business reforms, and lately, tensions over North Korea.

At 12:36 pm ET (16:36 GMT), the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 7.91 points, or 0.04 percent, at 22,126.77 and the S&P 500 was down 0.82 points, or 0.03 percent, at 2,495.66. The Nasdaq Composite was down 3.11 points, or 0.05 percent, at 6,451.17.

A rise in oil prices after the International Energy Agency said a global surplus of crude was starting to shrink sent the S&P energy index up 0.9 percent.

Target rose 2.3 percent after the retailer said it would hire 100,000 workers for the holiday season, 43 percent more than last year.

McDonald's gave the biggest boost to the Dow with a 0.9 percent rise, while Amazon's 0.7 percent rise led the Nasdaq higher.

Nordstrom gained 6.3 percent, topping the consumer discretionary index after Reuters reported the founding family had selected private equity firm Leonard Green & Partners to help take it private.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners on the NYSE by 1,480 to 1,288. On the Nasdaq, 1,551 issues rose and 1,247 fell.

Europe

European shares steadied on Wednesday as a global equity rally flagged, with Apple suppliers hit after the new iPhone release disappointed with a later than expected shipping date.

The pan-European STOXX 600 index ended flat, paring earlier losses thanks to gains in oil and banking stocks which offset the weak chipmakers and a fall in miners.

Chipmakers supplying to Apple were among the worst performers, with AMS down 3.9 percent, while Dialog Semiconductor slipped 1.6 percent, while STMicro ended up 0.1 percent.

Traders said their shares were under pressure because Apple's new $999 iPhone X will ship later than expected, on Nov 3. The price tag could also dent demand for the device in markets such as China.

Chipmakers have been the best performing among Europe's tech stocks this year, accounting for a large chunk of the sector's outperformance. AMS shares have gained 165 percent year-to-date.

Richemont fell 1.2 percent despite reporting a sales beat for its first half thanks to a recovery in the Asian luxury market. UBS analysts said weaker retail growth may weigh on sentiment.

Peer Swatch also fell 3.9 percent, with some traders citing concerns that Apple's new watch could also dent the watchmaker's shares.

The merging eyewear and lens makers Luxottica and Essilor were also among the biggest fallers, both down more than 2 percent. EU antitrust regulators were set to tell the firms of concerns they have over the merger this week.

Covestro rose 3.7 percent after German drugs and pesticides group Bayer sold a 9.4 percent stake in the firm, in order to finance part of its acquisition of Monsanto.

Asia

Asian investors eased off the pedal Wednesday after recent gains but the dollar held up against the yen as North Korea kept itself in the mix by warning it would strengthen its nuclear programme in response to fresh UN sanctions.

While Tokyo was able to kick on thanks to a further weakening of the yen, most regional traders were unwilling to track the record close on Wall Street, and Apple-linked firms were mixed after the firm unveiled its new phone.

The latest gains have been fuelled by relief that Hurricane Irma did not hammer Florida as badly as feared and that the North Korea crisis had eased somewhat after its recent provocative nuclear and missile tests.

However, Pyongyang attracted renewed attention when it vowed Wednesday to accelerate its weapons drive after "evil" Security Council sanctions.

In equities trade Tokyo ended 0.5 percent higher as exporters benefited from the weaker yen. The greenback broke back above 110 yen Tuesday after last week's sell-off saw it tumble to the 10-month lows around 107.30 yen.

Shanghai added 0.1 percent but Hong Kong slipped 0.3 percent, while Sydney eased slightly and Seoul and Singapore lost 0.2 percent each. Wellington and Taipei were also lower.

In Japan component-maker Nidec jumped 3.5 percent and Sharp gained 1.2 percent. Seoul-listed LG Innotek, which supplies 3D sensing modules, fell 1.8 percent while OLED material provider Innox Advanced Materials slipped 0.9 percent as investors were disappointed at delays in rolling out the iPhone X.

In Taipei, TSMC retreated 0.5 percent and Hon Hai gave up 1.3 percent.

■ Key figures around 08:20 GMT

Tokyo — Nikkei 225: UP 0.5 percent at 19,865.82 (close)

Hong Kong — Hang Seng: DOWN 0.3 percent at 27,894.08 (close)

Shanghai — Composite: UP 0.1 percent at 3,384.15 (close)

Dollar/yen: DOWN at 110.12 from 110.18 yen

Oil

Oil prices rose on Wednesday after the International Energy Agency (IEA) said a global surplus of crude was starting to shrink due to robust global demand and an output drop from OPEC and other producers.

By 12:01 GMT, international benchmark Brent crude was up 47 cents, or 0.8 percent, at $54.74 a barrel.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) was up 47 cents, or 0.9 percent, at $48.70 a barrel.

"Based on recent bets made by investors, expectations are that markets are tightening and that prices will rise, albeit very modestly," the IEA, which coordinates energy policies in industrialised nations, said in its monthly report.

"Demand growth continues to be stronger than expected, particularly in Europe and the US," the IEA said, raising its 2017 global oil demand growth estimate to 1.6 million barrels per day from 1.5 million bpd.

The assessment echoed a report by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries forecasting higher demand for its oil in 2018 and pointing to signs of a tighter global market.

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) revised its 2017 and 2018 US oil output forecasts lower to reflect, in part, the effects of Hurricane Harvey.

Bjarne Schieldrop, chief commodities analyst at SEB, said the IEA had not extended its forecast for strong demand growth to 2018.

Gold

Gold dipped on Wednesday, erasing earlier slim gains as the dollar index moved into positive territory, though a retreat in global stocks after Tuesday's record high kept the metal hemmed within a narrow range.

Spot gold was down 0.4 percent at $1,326.07 an ounce at 14:10 GMT, off an earlier peak of $1,334.65.

The metal's move lower came as the dollar erased earlier losses to rise 0.4 percent versus a basket of currencies. A firmer dollar makes gold more expensive for holders of other currencies.

"This seems to be currency led," Saxo Bank's head of commodity research Ole Hansen said.

"I'm somewhat surprised that gold managed to find support ahead of $1,321.50, the 23.6 percent retracement of the July to September rally, but with (North Korean leader) Kim vowing to keep pushing his nuclear ambitions, the geo-risk is never far away."

exchange rates – Sept 13

		US dollar			Sterling pound			Euro			Japanese yen			Swiss franc			Canadian dollar			Swedish krona			Saudi riyal			UAE dirham			Bahraini dinar			Omani riyal		
		Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer
BEC	Buy	.298150	.299900	.299900	.392951	.391950	.391950	.358820	.358820	.358820	.002679	.026790	.026790	.307100	.308099	.308099	.223388	.221387	.221387	.030710	.307117	.307117	.080047	.805467	.805467	.081411	.813661	.813661	.799606	.799106	.799106	.783839	.778339	.778339
	Sell	.302570	.302250	.302250	.402951	.401550	.401550	.367820	.365920	.365920	.002850	.028590	.028590	.318100	.315099	.315099	.232388	.231387	.231387	.031810	.357117	.357117	.081347	.811867	.811867	.083111	.828821	.828821	.808106	.807606	.807606	.780519	.789339	.789339
Muzaini	Sell	.302650	.303850	.303850	—	.396520	.396520	—	.348360	.348360	—	.002763	.002763	—	.315780	.315780	—	.230900	.230900	—	—	—	—	.081147	.081147	—	.082850	.082850	—	.808020	.808020	—	.790281	.790281
Dollarco	Sell	.302000	.301400	.301400	.400000	.399255	.399255	.365000	.364275	.364275	.002745	.002745	.002745	.313810	.313810	.313810	.226990	.226990	.226990	—	—	—	.081227	.081227	.081227	.082931	.082931	.082931	.808820	.808820	.808820	—	—	—
Commercial Bank	Buy	.299000	.300100	.300100	.392000	.396087	.396087	.358000	.361170	.361170	—	.002748	.002748	.311000	.311974	.311974	.227000	.228336	.228336	—	.034729	.034729	.079000	.080577	.080577	.082203	.082271	.082271	.800883	.802135	.802135	.785133	.785594	.785594
	Sell	.303200	.303700	.303700	.398000	.400838	.400838	.367000	.365503	.365503	—	.002774	.002774	.320000	.315692	.315692	.234000	.231057	.231057	—	.035143	.035143	.083000	.081537	.081537	.083029	.083252	.083252	.808932	.811693	.811693	.793024	.794955	.794955
Gulf Bank	Buy	.300850	.300850	.300850	.039102	.039102	.039102	.035866	.035866	.035866	.000274	.000274	.000274	.031080	.031080	.031080	.022772	.022772	.022772	.003478	.003478	.003478	.008058	.008058	.008058	.008223	.008223	.008223	.079875	.079875	.079875	.078492	.078492	.078492
	Sell	.302950	.302950	.302950	.040298	.040298	.040298	.036960	.036960	.036960	.000278	.000278	.000278	.031717	.031717	.031717	.023236	.023236	.023236	.003518	.003518	.003518	.008168	.008168	.008168	.008325	.008325	.008325	.081019	.081019	.081019	.079573	.079573	.079573
NBK	Buy	—	.303250	.303250	—	.390500	.390500	—	.333780	.333780	—	.002708	.002708	—	.306020	.306020	—	.218030	.218030	—	.034390	.034390	—	.080720	.080720	—	.082440	.082440	—	.080297	.080297	—	.786500	.786500
	Sell	—	.305600	.305600	—	.401380	.401380	—	.343620	.343620	—	.002788	.002788	—	.315870	.315870	—	.045910	.045910	—	.034980	.034980	—	.081430	.081430	—	.083120	.083120	—	.080993	.080993	—	.793090	.793090
Burgan Bank	Buy	—	.301700	.301700	—	.379577	.379577	—	.331617	.331617	—	.002693	.002693	—	.306276	.306276	—	.224697	.224697	—	.341938	.341938	—	.079149	.079149	—	.809162	.809162	—	.786925	.786925	—	.771094	.771094
	Sell	—	.305800	.305800	—	.400426	.400426	—	.349851	.349851	—	.002841	.002841	—	.323139	.323139	—	.237036	.237036	—	.360703	.360703	—	.083686	.083686	—	.853504	.853504	—	.832026	.832026	—	.815244	.815244
ABK	Buy	.298000	.300500	.300500	.390980	.394510	.394510	.356110	.359330	.359330	—	.027446	.027446	—	.312100	.312100	—	.228690	.228690	—	.034490	.034490	.079290	.080000	.080000	.082203	.081950	.081950	—	.795990	.795990	—	.782410	.782410
	Sell	.304100	.302600	.302600	.402020	.399700	.399700	.366590	.364480	.364480	—	.027784	.027784	—	.316410	.316410	—	.231330	.231330	—	.035840	.035840	.082010	.081530	.081530	.083029	.083320	.083320	—	.811090	.811090	—	.795280	.795280
KFH	Buy	.300990	.301700	.301700	.371121	.376522	.376522	.323775	.329064	.329064	—	.002681	.002681	—	.305671	.305671	—	.224041	.224041	—	.034572	.034572	.080146	.080373	.080373	.081840	.082074	.082074	.794041	.799603	.799603	.766260	.783517	.783517
	Sell	.306520	.304800	.304800	.407120	.398739	.398739	.357341	.347716	.347716	—	.002835	.002835	—	.321881	.321881	—	.233338	.233338	—	.035267	.035267	.081914	.081422	.081422	.083646	.083142	.083142	.816698	.808886	.808886	.793146	.792387	.792387
KBE	Sell	—	.304300	.304300	—	.380900	.380900	—	.332100	.332100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.082810	.082810	—	.806500	.806500	—	—	—

		Danish krone			Indian rupee			Pakistani rupee			Sri Lanka rupee			Bangladesh taka			Philippine peso			Australian dollar			Hong Kong dollar			Singapore dollar			Jordanian dinar			Egyptian pound		
		Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer
BEC	Buy	.041735	.417347	.417347	.004275	.046612	.046612	.002714	.028670	.028670	.001608	.019479	.019479	.003385	.037303	.037303	.006030	.056860	.056860	.221302	.219301	.219301	.037117	.036434	.036434	.214630	.215629	.215629	.423764	.423349	.423349	.013995	.016303	.016303
	Sell	.043735	.467347	.467347	.004963	.047372	.047372	.003004	.028990	.028990	.002188	.019890	.019890	.003959	.037743	.037743	.006330	.061530	.061530	.233302	.232301	.232301	.039867	.039534	.039534	.224630	.221629	.221629	.432764	.430849	.430849	.019903	.017142	.017142
Muzaini	Sell	—	—	—	—	.004719	.004719	—	.002869	.002869	—	.001986	.001986	—	.003763	.003763	—	.006146	.006146	—	—	—	—	.038994	.038994	—	.221080	.221080	—	.428910	.428910	.019700	.016737	.016737
Dollarco	Sell	—	—	—	.004760	.004737	.004737	.003050	.002916	.002916	.002270	.002014	.002014	.004000	.003819	.003819	.006350	.006158	.006158	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.433500	.431140	.431140	.020000	.017031	.017031
Commercial Bank	Buy	—	.045511	.045511	.000400	—	—	—	—	—	.002000	—	—	—	—	—	.005000	—	—	.227000	.227527	.227527	—	.038736	.038736	—	.218486	.218486	.420000	—	—	.012000	—	—
	Sell	—	.046053	.046053	.006500	.004759	.004759	—	.002921	.002921	.003500	.002003	.002003	—	.003794	.003794	.007900	.006195	.006195	.236000	.230238	.230238	—	.039198	.039198	—	.221089	.221089	.436000	.431688	.431688	.020000	.017419	.017419
Gulf Bank	Buy	.004554	.004554	.004554	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.022824	.022824	.022824	.003860	.003860	.003860	.021885	.021885	.021885	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Sell	.004613	.004613	.004613	.000480	.000480	.000480	.000294	.000294	.000294	.000202	.000202	.000202	.000382	.000382	.000382	.000623	.000623	.000623	.023124	.023124	.023124	.003938	.003938	.003938	.022133	.022133	.022133	.043282	.043282	.043282	.001714	.001714	.001714
NBK	Buy	—	.045070	.045070	—	.004690	.004690	—	—	—	—	.001940	.001940	—	—	—	—	.005930	.005930	—	.222040	.222040	—	—	—	—	.217140	.217140	—	.042546	.042546	—	.016610	.016610
	Sell	—	.045910	.045910	—	.004731	.004731	—	.002950	.002950	—	.002020	.002020	—	—	—	—	.006110	.006110	—	.230730	.230730	—	—	—	—	.219840	.219840	—	.043286	.043286	—	.017780	.017780
Burgan Bank	Buy	—	.447841	.447841	—	.046091	.046091	—	.028267	.028267	—	.019415	.019415	—	.036660	.036660	—	.059870	.059870	—	.225160	.225160	—	—	—	—	.215322	.215322	—	.418061	.418061	—	.015754	.015754
	Sell	—	.472469	.472469	—	.048907	.048907	—	.030008	.030008	—	.020540	.020540	—	.038947	.038947	—	.063517	.063517	—	.237591	.237591	—	—	—	—	.227191	.227191	—	.442094	.442094	—	.017985	.017985
ABK	Buy	—	.045090	.045090	—	.045090	.045090	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.228470	.228470	—	.038760	.038760	—	.219040	.219040	—	.426230	.426230	—	—	—
	Sell	—	.047290	.047290	—	.047290	.047290	—	.004668	.004668	—	.002119	.002119	—	—	—	—	.006648	.006648	—	.231670	.231670	—	.039210	.039210	—	.221570	.221570	—	.433470	.433470	—	.018190	.018190
KFH	Buy	—	.045227	.045227	—	.004632	.004632	—	.002858	.002858	—	.001970	.001970	—	.003691	.003691	—	.006001	.006001	—	.221648	.221648	—	—	—	—	.216846	.216846	—	.424364	.424364	—	.001654	.001654
	Sell	—	.046253	.046253	—	.004790	.004790	—	.002931	.002931	—	.002011	.002011	—	.003824	.003824	—	.006251	.006251	—	.236245	.236245	—	—	—	—	.222348	.222348	—	.430295	.430295	—	.016834	.016834
KBE	Sell	—	—	—	—	.004694	.004694	—	.004694	.004694	—	.001984	.001984	—	.003778	.003778	—	.006060	.006060	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.016990	.016990

		Cyprus pound			Yemeni riyal			Thai baht			South African rand			Korean won			Syrian pound			Iranian Riyal			Lebanese pound			Malaysian ringgit			Indonesian rupiah			New Zealand dollar		
		Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer	Cash	Draft	Transfer
BEC	Buy	—	—	—	.000989	.011636	.011636	.008585	.008507	.008507	.017675	—	—	.000261	—	—	.001290	.004991	.004991	.000084	—	—	.000156	.001863	.001863	.067137	.661723	.661723	.000018	.000176	.000176	.213285	.211284	.211284
	Sell	—	—	—	.001069	.012635	.012635	.009135	.008922	.008922	.026175	—	—	.000276	—	—	.001510	.007191	.007191	.000085	—	—	.000258	.002063	.002063	.073137	.731723	.731723	.000024	.000246	.000246	.222785	.222284	.222284
Muzaini	Sell	—	—	—	—	.001222	.001222	—	.008991	.008991	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.002169	.002169	—	—	—	—	.002026	.002026	—	.068879	.068879	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dollarco	Sell	.695000	.168730	.168730	—	—	—	.009000	.009820	.009820	—	—	—	—	—	—	.000750	.002425	.002425	—	—	—	—	—	—	.069800	.069775	.069775	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gulf Bank	Buy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.021752	.021752	.021752
	Sell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.002415	.002415	.002415	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.000020	.000020	.000020	.022204	.022204	.022204
ABK	Buy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Sell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.218390	.218390
KFH	Buy	—	—	—	—	.001196	.001196	—	.008762	.008762	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.000197	.000197	—	.070132	.070132	—	—	—	—	.222010	.222010
	Sell	—	—	—	—	.000123	.000123	—	.009122	.009122	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.000206	.000206	—	.072246	.072246	—	—	—	—	—	—
KBE	Sell	—	—	—	—	.001550	.001550	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.002395	.002395	—	—	—

travellers cheques

	US dollar	Sterling	Euro
BEC	.3022500	.4015507	.3659201
Commercial Bank	.3037000	.4008380	.3655030
Gulf Bank	.3029500	.4029800	.3696000
Al-Ahli Bank	.3026000	.3997000	.3644800

local gold

	Gold 999 kg	Gold 999 10 tola	Gold ounce	Gold gm 22k	Gold gm 21k	Gold gm 18k	100 gm 999	10 gm 999
BEC	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Muzaini Exchange	12,062.730	1,426.660	385.640	11.070	10.570	9.060	—	127.450

All rates in KD per unit of foreign currency

Ferrari's downforce a key weapon at 23-corner street circuit

Street-fighter Hamilton out for Singapore sting

SINGAPORE, Sept 13, (AFP): Lewis Hamilton will aim to plunge a dagger into Sebastian Vettel's world title ambitions by upsetting his expected march to victory in Singapore — two weeks after ruining Ferrari's anniversary celebrations at Monza.

Hamilton is distinctly second favourite against his title rival at the twisting, turning and stiflingly hot Marina Bay street circuit, which plays to Ferrari's strengths and where Vettel has won four of the nine races.

But an unexpected victory for the Mercedes driver, who edged to the front of the standings by just three points with his wire-to-wire win in Italy, would set alarm bells ringing at Ferrari.

The Italian team will be smarting after Hamilton's crushing triumph at their home circuit this month — spoiling their 70th anniversary party, and earning boos on the podium from irate fans.

Another disappointment on Sunday in Singapore, the 14th of 20 races and the unofficial start of the title run-in, would deflate optimism of Ferrari's first world title in a decade.

Ferrari's downforce is a key weapon at the 23-corner street circuit, whose lack of long straights traditionally nullifies Mercedes' high-speed advantage and puts overtaking at a premium.

Mercedes chief Toto Wolff said the German marque faced a difficult weekend — but he will take heart from the fact that in five of the last seven seasons, the winning driver in Italy also took the chequered flag in Singapore.

"So far this year, we have seen the pendulum swing according to circuit type. On the surface, Singapore is the kind of circuit that should favour both Ferrari and Red Bull," said Wolff.

MOTOR RACING

"Both have shown strong performance on low-speed circuits demanding maximum downforce, and we have found life more difficult at those places in 2017."

But Wolff added: "We have made good progress in understanding what we need to do in order to get the most from the chassis ... It's a weekend when every part of the team needs to be at its best if you wish to score a strong finish.



This file photo taken on Aug 27, 2017 shows Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton driving ahead of Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel during the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit in Spa. (AFP)

"We will aim to put all the pieces of the puzzle together and finish strongly."

Hamilton's blistering form in qualifying this year, which saw him take a world-record 69th pole position in Monza, also gives Mercedes a chance. All but two of the races in Singapore have been won from pole and Hamilton is on a roll, having won three of the last four grands prix.

The three-time world champion Hamilton, who penned a poetic tribute to mark 20 years since the death of Princess Diana, was also moved to wax lyrical about his performances behind the wheel.

"I definitely feel like I have found more heart and passion within myself in the last three or four races," he said at Monza.

"Silverstone was an empowering weekend and that has kind of sparked a forest fire in me and that is hopefully reflecting in my driving.

"While I feel like I always drive with my heart — my heart is really the engine, the power and the force behind what I do — my mind is like the rudder, and I feel like it has been steering me in the right direction."

Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo will also approach the weekend with confidence after reaching the podium on his last three trips to Singapore.

"(It's) one of our best chances of a win in the second half of the season," said the Australian, who won in Azerbaijan and lies fourth in the standings.

'Honda committed to Formula One'

F1 boss tells spectacular S'pore to stay fresh

SINGAPORE, Sept 13, (AFP): Formula One chief Chase Carey challenged the "spectacular" Singapore Grand Prix to keep improving on Wednesday as he made positive noises about striking a new deal to retain the glittering night race.

Carey refused to discuss talks about the future of the street race, which snakes past the city's landmarks and skyscrapers and is in the final season of its second five-year contract.

But Carey, speaking at the All That Matters conference ahead of Sunday's Singapore Grand Prix, was highly complimentary of the event, suggesting that F1 is unwilling to let it go.

"I think it's great," the F1 chief executive and chairman said of Singapore, which was the first race he attended after America's Liberty Media sealed its deal to take over the sport last year.

"Last year was the first time I was here and I thought it was spectacular. You can never rest on your laurels, so I think you've got to continue to find ways to make it fresh, make it new, so I think we have to continue to work. If you're standing still, you're going backwards.

"But I think Singapore, with such a spectacular skyline and the setting for that race, I think is something that will always capture people's imagination."

Discussions over Singapore continue as the longstanding grand prix in neighbouring Malaysia, which has been cut for cost reasons, prepares for its final race in two weeks' time.

Carey said Singapore, which is known for its pop concerts and entertainment alongside the race, had been "ahead of the curve" in the drive to broaden the F1 experience beyond racing.

MOTOR RACING

"We're actively engaged with our partners here. It's our goal to try and reach a new deal that enables us to continue. We're proud of the race here, we have a good relationship," he said.

"We haven't concluded a deal yet but we're having positive discussions and it's certainly our goal to try and reach a deal that works for both of us."

Carey said it was still "early days" for Liberty, which is setting about rebuilding Formula One after taking over from its flamboyant long-term ringmaster Bernie Ecclestone.

But he said China, which has a grand prix in Shanghai, was one area of focus as well as the United States. Liberty's plans include potentially forming American, European and Asian sections of the season.

"Everybody talks about China, and obviously China and the US are the ones that get singled out as big huge, markets where we really are at the very early stages of tapping into potential," Carey said.

However, Carey signalled there was unlikely to be any way back for the races in India and South Korea, which were both brokered by Ecclestone but foundered after just a few editions.

"We had a race in Korea, we had a race in India, but they were very much one-offs, deal of the day, as opposed to a commitment to really build and grow a sport," he said.

Carey added: "Bernie and I used to have debates. Bernie used to say the sport needs a dictator, I'd say I think it needs a leader."

Meanwhile, Formula One chief Chase Carey said on Wednesday he was confident that Honda was in F1 for the long haul as reports said McLaren was about to confirm its split with the Japanese engine-maker.

Carey met Honda executives at this month's Italian Grand Prix and said they seemed excited about the future of Formula One, despite the company's troubled return to the sport.

McLaren are strongly rumoured to be on the verge of going with Renault engines rather than Honda's, whose power units have been notoriously unreliable and under-powered.

Reports say the Japanese manufacturer, which returned to F1 in 2015, is about to join forces with Toro Rosso, the secondary team of multiple world champions Red Bull.

"Honda's a very important partner," Carey said at the All That Matters conference in Singapore, ahead of Sunday's grand prix in the city.

NFL Roundup



Green Bay Packers' Jordy Nelson catches a touchdown pass in front of Seattle Seahawks' Bobby Wagner during the second half of an NFL footbtall game on Sept 10, in Green Bay, Wisconsin. (AP)

Bucs to host Bears

Packers claim top spot in AP Pro32 poll after Patriots' loss

NEW YORK, Sept 13, (Agencies): After the opening week of the NFL season, it's so easy to overreact, given such a small sample.

That's not an issue for the Green Bay Packers. They started the season last week at No. 2 in the first AP Pro32 poll and opened with a 17-9 win over the Seattle Seahawks.

And after the defending champion New England Patriots were routed in their opener, the Packers took advantage.

Green Bay grabbed the top spot in the latest AP Pro32 poll, which was released on Tuesday, receiving seven of 12 first-place votes for 376 points in balloting by media members who regularly cover the NFL.



Reid

In all, six teams received a first-place vote.

The Kansas City Chiefs earned one of those first-place votes to reach 367 points, jumping five places to No. 2 in the poll after opening the season with a 42-27 win against the Patriots.

Coach Andy Reid and the Chiefs will host the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday. Reid coached the Eagles for 14 seasons and reached the playoffs nine times.

The Dallas Cowboys also earned a first-place vote and finished with 331 points, moving up five places to No. 3 after a 19-3 win over the rival New York Giants.

The Patriots fell from No. 1 to No. 4 and will look to rebound in New Orleans on Sunday against Drew Brees and the Saints.

New England also received a first-place vote and trails Dallas by only two points.

The Atlanta Falcons stayed at No. 5 and will open their new $1.5 billion Mercedes-Benz Stadium when they host the Packers on Sunday night in a rematch of the NFC championship game.

The Oakland Raiders and Pittsburgh Steelers were tied at No. 6. Both received a first-place vote and have 327 points, trailing Atlanta by one.

Seattle, which lost to the Packers at Lambeau Field on Sunday, dropped five spots to No. 8.

The Minnesota Vikings moved up six spots to No. 9 after opening with a win against the Saints. Minnesota faces a test this week when it goes on the road to take on the Steelers.

The Carolina Panthers gained three spots to round out the top 10.

❑ ❑ ❑

Officials approved Raymond James Stadium for Week 2 and the NFL agreed the game between the **Buccaneers** and **Chicago Bears** will be played as scheduled Sunday in Tampa, Fla. The Bucs were still working through a bunch of logistical problems Monday.

❑ ❑ ❑

Arizona Cardinals running back **David Johnson** will have surgery on his left wrist and is expected to be sidelined two to three months, multiple outlets reported on Tuesday.

The Cardinals placed Johnson on injured reserve, but with a chance to return this season.

❑ ❑ ❑

Houston Texans defensive end **J.J. Watt** isn't going to let a little thing like a finger injury slow him down, even if that injury reportedly dealt with a bone breaking through the skin. When asked about his condition, Watt told the team's website on Tuesday that he was fine.

"It's inside my body, so it's still attached," the three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year said.

❑ ❑ ❑

The **Los Angeles Rams** signed punter **Johnny Hekker** to a two-year contract extension, the team announced.

Hekker, who initially signed a six-year extension in 2014, will remain with the team through the 2022 season. The deal gives the 27-year-old $10 million guaranteed, the most ever for a punter, ESPN's **Adam Schefter** reported.

❑ ❑ ❑

New Orleans right tackle **Zach Strief** is expected to be sidelined a few weeks after sustaining an MCL sprain in his left knee during Monday's 29-19 loss to the **Minnesota Vikings,** according to multiple reports.

An MCL sprain typically is a four-week injury, which means Strief could be sidelined through the team's Week 5 bye.

❑ ❑ ❑

The **Philadelphia Eagles** will sign rookie **Jake Elliott** off the **Cincinnati Bengals'** practice squad to replace fellow kicker **Caleb Sturgis**, according to NFL Network's **Ian Rapoport** on Tuesday.

Rapoport reported that Sturgis will be placed on injured reserve/designation to return after the kicker sustained a hip flexor injury in Philadelphia's season-opening 30-17 victory over the **Washington Redskins** on Sunday.



Los Angeles Sparks forward Candace Parker drives to the basket against Phoenix Mercury's Camille Little (20) and Brittney Griner (42) during the first half of a WNBA basketball playoff game, Sept 12, in Los Angeles. (AP)

Nneka helps Sparks beat Phoenix in playoff opener

Lynx roll to 101-81 win over Mystics

LOS ANGELES, Sept 13, (AP): Nneka Ogwumike scored 19 points to lead five starters in double figures, helping the Los Angeles Sparks opened defense of their WNBA championship with a 79-66 victory over the Phoenix Mercury on Tuesday night in Game 1 of the semifinals.

Candace Parker added 15 points while playing with five fouls. Ogwumike overcame four fouls. Chelsea Gray had 13 points, Odyssey Sims

BASKETBALL

12 and Alana Beard 11.

Leilani Mitchell led the Mercury with 19 points and made five 3-pointers, both career playoff highs. Brittney Griner added 18 points before fouling out with 4:44 left in the game. Diana Taurasi went 2 of 10 from the floor for a career playoff low six points.

After trailing much of the first half, the Sparks pulled away in the third quarter, outscoring Phoenix 14-6 to lead 56-48. Things got testy with 28 seconds left in the period. Phoenix's Emma Cannon and the Sparks' Essence Carson were called for double technicals after exchanging words. Before that, Phoenix's Camille Little was called for a blocking foul, with Parker on the floor with her legs in the air and her arms protecting her face. At Minneapolis, Seimone Augustus scored 24 points and Sylvia Fowles added 18 to help the Lynx roll to a 101-81 victory over the Mystics.

Augustus made 11 of 17 shots and the Lynx looked plenty sharp after a week off and playing in an unfamiliar arena. The Lynx will play all of their playoff games at the University of Minnesota's Williams Arena after playing the regular season at Xcel Energy Center, home of the Minnesota Wild.

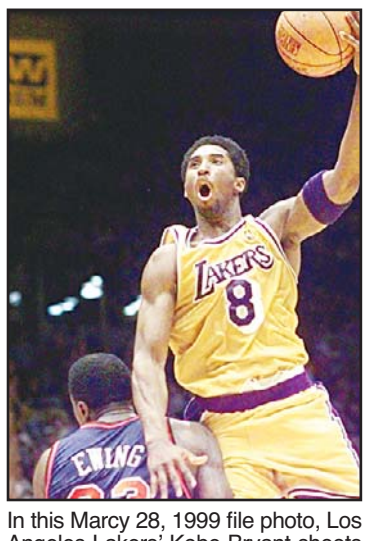
Elena Delle Donne had 17 points for the Mystics, who had a quick turnaround after beating the Liberty in New York on Sunday. After setting a playoff record with nine 3-pointers in the victory over New York on Sunday, Mystics guard Kristi Toliver scored just three points on 1-for-7 shooting.

Nets sign Zeller to multi-year deal

Lakers to retire Bryant's two jersey numbers in December

LOS ANGELES, Sept 13, (Agencies): The Los Angeles Lakers plan to retire the jersey numbers of Kobe Bryant on Dec 18 prior to the game against the Golden State Warriors. The team will retire both of Bryant's numbers. Bryant wore both No. 8 and No. 24 during his 20 seasons with the Lakers.

Bryant, an 18-time All-Star who won five NBA titles with the Lakers, retired following the 2015-16 campaign. He wore No. 8 for his first 10 seasons before switching to No. 24.



In this Marcy 28, 1999 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant shoots over New York Knicks' Patrick Ewing during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑

The **Brooklyn Nets** added some toughness to the frontcourt by signing veteran center **Tyler Zeller** to a multi-year contract. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. Zeller, 27, spent the past three seasons with the **Boston Celtics** and averaged 3.5 points and 2.4 rebounds in 2016-17. In five seasons with the **Cleveland Cavaliers** and Celtics, Zeller is averaging 7.0 points on 49.9 percent shooting and 4.4 rebounds.

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The **Detroit Pistons** signed guard **Dwight Buycks** to a two-way contract.

Buycks spent the past two seasons with the Fujian Sturgeons of the Chinese Basketball Association, and averaged over 25 points in each campaign. The Marquette product averaged 4.8 points, 1.8 rebounds and 1.2 assists in 20 career NBA games with the **Toronto Raptors** and **Los Angeles Lakers.**

❑ ❑ ❑

As the NBA joins sports leagues around the world in allowing sponsors' names on jerseys, the **Golden State Warriors** have inked a logo deal with Rakuten worth a reported $60 million (50 million euros) over three years.

The deal with the reigning NBA champions is just one of the sports sponsorships pursued by Rakuten, the Japanese e-commerce giant whose logo now graces the **FC Barcelona** kit.

Pogba faces spell on the sidelines with hamstring injury

Mourinho slams players despite Man U big win

MANCHESTER, Sept 13, (RTRS): Jose Mourinho set the Champions League bar high for his Manchester United team after criticising them for trying to play "fantasy football" in a 3-0 win over Basel on Tuesday.

Marouane Fellaini, Romelu Lukaku and Marcus Rashford all scored their first Champions League goals as United eased past the Swiss side at Old Trafford.

Mourinho, bidding to win the competition for a third time having taken Porto and Inter Milan all the way, accused his side of switching off after Lukaku's goal put them 2-0 ahead shortly after the interval, having dominated the first half.

"Three points are important when you start the group phase at home," Mourinho, who took United to the Europa League title last season in his first campaign in charge, told BT Sport.

"Until 2-0 we were very stable, with confidence and patience, with good choices, played quite well.

"After that everything changed. We stopped to think, we stopped playing simple, we stopped making the right decisions on the pitch and we could have put ourselves in trouble.

"But they didn't score. We tried to play fantasy football, tricks, and when you stop to play seriously I don't like it.

You gamble a bit. Maybe they felt the game was under control. But football is football, you have to respect opponents."

Basel did have some chances but never really threatened to punish United for some sloppy second-half passing.

Mourinho, however, will know that those kind of mistakes will be punished by sides with more bite than the Swiss.

"I keep saying the same, Fellaini is a player with special qualities he does things that other players cannot do.

He gives me a multiple area of actions and positions and philosophy on the pitch and is one of my most

SOCCER

important players."

Mourinho was pleased to welcome back wing back Ashley Young who provided the cross for Fellaini's opener on his first match since injuring himself in the Europa League semifinal, second leg against Celta Vigo in May.

Paul Pogba faces "a few weeks" on the sidelines after injuring his hamstring.

Pogba was taken off after 18 minutes against the Swiss team at Old Trafford and the French midfielder looks certain to miss United's Premier League clash at home against Everton on Sunday.



Manchester United's Romelu Lukaku heads the ball during the Champions League Group A soccer match between Manchester United and Basel, at the Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester, on Sept 12. (AP)

"I don't know. I just know from experience it's a muscular injury. In my experience, muscular injury stops you from playing for a few weeks, I think," Mourinho told the club's website.

"It looks for me, too, (like a hamstring injury) but I haven't spoken yet to the medical department."

Fellaini is a contender to fill in for the Frenchman against Everton. "Squads are for this, squads are for injuries, squads are for suspensions," Mourinho said.

"We don't cry with injuries. So if no Paul for Sunday, we have Herrera, we have Carrick, we have Fellaini and we have Matic," he added.

League leaders United have made a strong start to the season with three wins from their first three games before a 2-2 draw against Stoke City. Everton have one win from four games.

Conte gamble pays off as Chelsea rout Qarabag

LONDON, Sept 13, (AFP): Antonio Conte believes his decision to rest several of Chelsea stars for their Champions League demolition of Qarabag will be rewarded when the Blues face Arsenal on Sunday.

Conte left out David Luiz, Antonio Rudiger, Victor Moses and Alvaro Morata for Tuesday's 6-0 thumping of the Azerbaijan minnows at Stamford Bridge.

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With those key players kept fresh and Eden Hazard coming off the bench for only his second appearance since close-season ankle surgery, Conte is confident Chelsea will go into their London derby in good condition to claim three valuable points.

"It was a good start, a perfect start us," Conte said.

"To play the first game of the Champions League, then to win with a good result, to score many goals, to finish the game with a clean sheet.

"I saw a lot of positive things. Now we have to rest and get ready for a tough game against a strong Arsenal team."

Conte's selection gamble was never in danger of backfiring as goals from Pedro, Davide Zappacosta, Tiemoue Bakayoko, Cesar Azpilicueta and Michy Batshuayi ensured Chelsea made a strong start to their group stage campaign.

Giving his understudies a chance for valuable game time was an added bonus for Conte, who said: "I wanted to give a chance to Michy and also to Andreas Christensen.

"To play in the Champions League means the coach trusts you.

"My message tonight was this: I trust all my players, not with only words, but with facts.

"Last season we played with only 13 players, to do that again would be crazy.

"We have to develop these players, to try and create a good competition, a positive competition, between them. It's very important."

Conte was also encouraged by Zappacosta's first start following his deadline day move from Torino.

The Italy right-back capped a lung-bursting run with a cross that flew in for Chelsea's second goal.

"He played a really good game. For sure he knew very well my style of football and for this reason I decided to start with him," Conte said.

"It's not easy to change your life in one week, but his answer was very good.

"He scored and that's important us but I'm more pleased for his performance."

Despite Hazard's solid showing as a second half substitute, Conte admitted it might be too soon for the Belgian playmaker to start against Arsenal.

"It's early to speak about this. We must have a bit of patience with Eden," Conte said.

"We must give him the possibility to recover very well, to be totally fit.

"We must have calm to do the best for the player and the team. Otherwise we risk a bad injury."

It was a chastening first taste of the Champions League group stage for Qarabag, but Gurban Gurbanov, boss of the Azerbaijan minnows, insisted it was still a proud day for his club.

"The game was very difficult for us, Chelsea played very well," he said.

"We made lots of errors. I accept we must play better but I'm still satisfied with the performance given the quality of the opponent.

"We are happy we are part of this tournament."



Qarabag's Azerbaijani defender Maksim Medvedev (left), vies with Chelsea's Belgian striker Michy Batshuayi during the UEFA Champions League Group C football match between Chelsea and Qarabag at Stamford Bridge in London on Sept 12. (AFP)

Celtic charged over pitch invasion

Emery warns five-star PSG can only get better

GLASGOW, Sept 13, (AFP): Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) coach Unai Emery says his side have learned lessons from the past after they started their Champions League Group B campaign with a 5-0 thrashing of Celtic.

Neymar, Kylian Mbappe, Edinson Cavani's double and a Mikel Lustig own goal consigned Celtic to their record home European defeat and propelled PSG to the top of the table on goal difference from Bayern Munich, who they host on match day two.

It was a real statement of intent from this summer's big spenders who signed Brazilian Neymar and teenage sensation Mbappe in a bid to make a real impression on the competition.

After four consecutive seasons of reaching the quarter-finals, PSG fell at the round of 16 last season when they capitulated against Barcelona after winning the first leg 4-0.

It was a result that convinced their Qatari owners to break the world transfer record to bring Neymar to the French capital.

The 6-1 defeat to the Catalan giants in the second leg was a humbling for PSG but Emery says they are approaching this season's campaign with a renewed confidence.

"We did learn from the past and what happened last year. We have worked really hard to improve things within the team," the Spanish coach said.

"I think my team showed a lot of character. What I was really pleased with was the fact we were in control with the ball and without the ball.

"Of course we have added to the team but it is more about all the people working together. As far as this is concerned I am really, really happy."

The French side's formidable front line terrorised the Celtic defence and Emery warned they would only get better.

The PSG coach singled out Mbappe, who PSG have an option to buy from Monaco for a fee that could reach 180 million Euros, for praise.

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"This is what he needs at the moment. He wants to be a great player and he is going to grow up into that role," Emery said of the 18-year-old who scored his second goal in two games.

"They have only played a few games together ... but the key is that the team is going to improve more and more."

Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers said his side, who conceded five at home for the first time since Rangers beat them 5-1 in September 1960, said his side weren't at the same level of the French superstars.

"You have to give credit to them. They are a really special team and they are going to be close to winning it for sure," the Northern Irishman said.

"This is a level where you have to look after the ball, and you have to make the ball work for you, and in the first half we didn't do that."

European football's governing body UEFA has opened disciplinary proceedings against Celtic following a pitch invasion during their Champions League tie against Paris Saint-Germain.

A supporter raced onto the Parkhead pitch late in the first half on Tuesday with the hosts 3-0 down and darted towards 18-year-old superstar Kylian Mbappe.

He aimed a fresh-air kick at the former Monaco striker but failed to make contact before being whisked away by stewards.

Celtic have been charged with a count of "field invasion" and will have their case heard by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body on Oct 19, a UEFA statement said.

Celtic have already been fined 11 times in less than six years over fan behaviour issues ranging from pro-IRA chants to fireworks, crowd disturbances and illicit banners.

PSG have also been charged after their fans were accused of breaking seats at Celtic Park and will have their matter addressed at the same hearing as Celtic.

Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers expressed his frustration with Tuesday night's incident and said the Parkhead club would take its own action.

"The crowd reaction said it all. It is disappointing at any ground that a supporter gets on to the pitch," he said.

"I am sure the club will deal with that. It shouldn't be anything that we should see on a football field. The crowd in their reaction told you everything you need to know."

Police said they made seven arrests at Celtic Park, including a 21-year-old man accused of an alleged pitch incursion and assault.

Four men are expected to appear in court later Wednesday.

UEFA has also opened proceedings against Basel after fans set off fireworks at Old Trafford on Tuesday. The Swiss club lost 3-0 to Manchester United.



Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian striker Neymar (right), celebrates with teammates after scoring the opening goal of the UEFA Champions League Group B football match between Celtic and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) at Celtic Park in Glasgow, on Sept 12. (AFP)

Messi 'lifts' Barca mood

Catalans dominate Juve

BARCELONA, Sept 13, (RTRS): When Barcelona's Andres Iniesta was serenaded off the pitch on Tuesday following a vintage display in a 3-0 win over Juventus that was only rivalled by Lionel Messi, it was easy to forget the gloom that had gripped the Nou Camp two weeks ago.

The club had been left red-faced by the failure to sign top targets Philippe Coutinho and Angel Di Maria when the transfer window shut and the squad looked weakened following the world record departure of Neymar to Paris St Germain.

A resounding 5-1 aggregate Spanish Super Cup defeat by arch rivals Real Madrid added to the sense of despondency.

Tuesday's stunning opening Group D display against last season's Champions League finalists, however, showed that Barca are still in safe

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hands as long as the old guard of Messi and Iniesta remain at the club and are fit and firing.

Barca captain Iniesta, 33, struggled for large parts of last season as injuries took their toll but he rolled back the years against Juve with a seamless display that recalled the days when Pep Guardiola was manager and Barca dominated in midfield.

The veteran ran the usually solid Italian champions ragged throughout the game and capped the display with a pinpoint pass to Messi for the Argentine's second goal, Barca's third, earning him a warm reception when he was substituted late on.

"It's important to play a lot of minutes but the key is looking after yourself properly," said Iniesta, who is out of contract at the end of the season.

"When the team functions well we all play better. We struggled a bit at first as is normal in European games but we just needed a bit of patience and then we began to control the game."

The Juve clash, a repeat of last season's quarter-final tie won by the Italians and the 2015 Champions League final in which Barca triumphed, was one of the most eagerly anticipated fixtures in Europe this week.

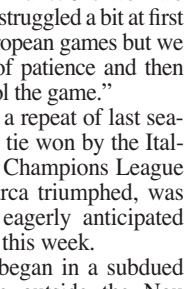
But the match began in a subdued atmosphere, while outside the Nou Camp opponents of the board campaigned for a motion of no confidence in president Josep Maria Bartomeu.

Once Iniesta and Messi had finished outclassing Juventus, however, there was a party mood inside the ground, with little signs of any rebellion.

Iniesta's display was only upstaged by Messi, who ended his hoodoo against Juve keeper Gianluigi Buffon with lethal strikes either side of half-time, scoring for the seventh time in three games.

He also had a shot cleared off the line which was turned in by Ivan Rakitic for the second goal and hammered the post in the second half. He was a constant threat and at times freely danced past the visiting defence, torturing a helpless Juve rearguard.

"I have the feeling that whenever Leo picks the ball up something is going to happen, anything can happen, and it's always good for us," said Barca coach Ernesto Valverde.



Messi

"Leo scored an extraordinary goal and blew the game open. He is one of the best players in the history of the game.

"I've had to suffer a lot against him in the past but now I'm lucky enough to be able to enjoy him," added Valverde, who came from Athletic Bilbao and has managed several Spanish clubs.



Barcelona's Nelson Semedo (left), and Juventus' Douglas Costa vie for the ball during a Champions League Group D soccer match between FC Barcelona and Juventus at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, on Sept 12. (AP)

Lothar 'slams' Ribery tantrum

BERLIN, Sept 13, (AFP): Germany legend Lothar Matthaeus has criticised Franck Ribery for defiantly throwing off his Bayern Munich shirt after being substituted in Tuesday's Champions League win over Anderlecht, prompting a passionate response from the Frenchman.

Having picked up an early booking for arguing with the referee in the 3-0 home victory, Ribery was taken off with 12 minutes to go in Munich and hurled his shirt at the Bayern bench.

"Ribery has been here long

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enough now — he is emotional, but you can't throw your shirt on the bench like that," ex-Bayern midfielder and Germany captain Matthaeus told Sky.

"That is a bad."

Bayern head coach Carlo Ancelotti was equally unimpressed by the 34-year-old Frenchman's behaviour.

"Of course, the player wants to play 90 minutes, but I decided to take him off because there were 10 minutes left, we had the game under control and he already had a yellow card," said the Italian.

"He had had problems (an injury knock) at the weekend, so I don't understand his reaction and I will talk to him about it."

Ribery's rage could well have consequences.

"We are FC Bayern, that is not okay and we will talk about it," added director of sport Hasan Salihamidzic.

However, Ribery later defended his actions in an emotional statement.

"I have always been one of the honest and loyal players in this business, I respect the fans and I respect the club I love," he wrote on his Facebook page.

"Throwing my wet jersey last night has nothing to do with disrespect, or anything else that I am accused of by people who pretend to know me.

"This wet jersey, in which I have given everything for more than ten years, with all my impulses, my will to win and in which I have achieved so much.

"Some will never understand what it means to give everything to their club and I'm sorry for them.

"As long as I stand on the pitch, I, Franck Ribery, will defend our colours and be involved in every game with all my passion."

Bayern played nearly 80 minutes against 10 men after Anderlecht had defender Sven Kums sent off just before Robert Lewandowski converted a penalty.

MLB Scoreboard

WASHINGTON, Sept 13, (Agencies): Results from the MLB games on Tuesday.

LA Dodgers	5	San Francisco	3
Houston	1	LA Angels	0
Colorado	4	Arizona	2
St Louis	13	Cincinnati	4
Minnesota	16	San Diego	0
Chicago Cubs	8	NY Mets	3
Seattle	10	Texas	3
Milwaukee	5	Pittsburgh	2
Cleveland	2	Detroit	0
Tampa Bay	2	NY Yankees	1
Boston	11	Oakland	1
Toronto	3	Baltimore	2
Atlanta	8	Washington	0
Philadelphia	9	Miami	8
K. City	4	Chicago W Sox	3

MLB Standings

American League

Eastern Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	82	62	.569	-
NY Yankees	78	66	.542	4
Tampa Bay	72	74	.493	11
Baltimore	71	74	.490	11-1/2
Toronto	68	77	.469	14-1/2

Central Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Cleveland	89	56	.614	-
Minnesota	75	69	.521	13-1/2
Kansas City	72	72	.500	16-1/2
Detroit	60	84	.417	28-1/2
Chicago Sox	57	87	.396	31-1/2

Western Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Houston	87	57	.604	-
LA Angels	73	71	.507	14
Texas	72	72	.500	15
Seattle	72	73	.497	15-1/2
Oakland	63	81	.438	24

National League

Eastern Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Washington	88	56	.611	-
Miami	68	76	.472	20
Atlanta	65	78	.455	22-1/2
NY Mets	63	81	.438	25
Philadelphia	55	89	.382	33

Central Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	78	66	.542	-
St Louis	76	68	.528	2
Milwaukee	76	69	.524	2-1/2
Pittsburgh	68	78	.466	11
Cincinnati	62	83	.428	16-1/2

Western Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
LA Dodgers	93	52	.641	-
Arizona	83	62	.572	10
Colorado	80	65	.552	13
San Diego	65	80	.448	28
San Francisco	57	90	.388	37

MLB Linescores

American League

Chicago 001 100 010-3 13 0
Kansas City 400 000 00x-4 4 0
Covey, Fry (6), Farquhar (6), Bummer (8) and Brantly, Narvaez; Gaviglio, Minor (6), Moylan (8), Alexander (9) and S. Perez. W-Gaviglio 4-5. L-Covey 0-5. Sv-Alexander (4). HRs-Kansas City, Moss.

New York 100 000 000-1 3 0
Tampa Bay 100 000 01x-2 5 0
S. Gray and G. Sanchez; Snell, Cishek (6), Jennings (7), Hunter (8), Colome (9) and W. Ramos. W-Hunter 3-5. L-S. Gray 9-10. Sv-Colome (44). HRs-Tampa Bay, Kiermaier, Hechavarria.

Baltimore 000 000 110-2 6 0
Toronto 001 000 002-3 10 0
Bundy, Givens (7), Brach (8), Britton (8) and C. Joseph; Biagini, Koehler (9), Mayza (9) and Maile. W-Mayza 1-0. L-Britton 2-1. HRs-Baltimore, Beckham.

Detroit 000 000 000-0 5 0
Cleveland 100 001 00x-2 9 0
Boyd, Hardy (6), VerHagen (6), Stumpf (8) and Holaday; Kluber and Gomes. W-Kluber 16-4. L-Boyd 5-10. HRs-Cleveland, Lindor.

Oakland 100 000 000-1 3 2
Boston 050 222 00x-11 16 0
Manaea, S. Castro (4), R. Alcantara (6), Brady (8) and Garneau; E. Rodriguez, Workman (7), C. Smith (8), Maddox (8) and Vazquez. W-E. Rodriguez 5-5. L-Manaea 10-10. HRs-Boston, Betts 2.

Seattle 043 011 100-10 15 1
Texas 012 000 000-3 10 0
Gonzales, Pazos (6), Altavilla (7), S. Simmons (8), Lawrence (9) and Zunino; M. Gonzalez, Gardewine (3), Bibens-Dirkx (4), Leclerc (7), Espino (9) and Chirinos, Nicholas. W-Gonzales 1-1. L-M. Gonzalez 7-11. HRs-Seattle, Seager, Gamel.

Houston 010 000 000-1 6 0
Los Angeles 000 000 000-0 2 0
Verlander, Giles (9) and McCann; Richards, B. Wood (6), Bedrosian (7), Middleton (8), Petit (9) and Maldonado. W-Verlander 12-8. L-Richards 0-1. Sv-Giles (30).

Interleague

San Diego 000 000 000-0 4 0
Minnesota 162 211 30x-16 18 1
T. Wood, Valdez (3), Mazzoni (6), McGrath (7) and Hedges, Torrens; Gibson, G. Perkins (7), Tonkin (8), Moya (9) and J. Castro, Garver. W-Gibson 10-10. L-T. Wood 3-6. HRs-Minnesota, Polanco, Escobar, Dozier, Vargas, Rosario, Castro 2.

National League

Atlanta 103 101 200-8 14 0
Washington 000 000 000-0 9 1
Teheran, L. Jackson (8) and K. Suzuki; G. Gonzalez, A. Cole (6), A. Adams (8), Romero (9) and Wieters, Severino. W-Teheran 11-11. L-G. Gonzalez 14-7. HRs-Atlanta, Albies, Freeman.

Pittsburgh 002 000 000-2 6 1
Milwaukee 014 000 00x-5 8 0
G. Cole, E. Santana (7), Leathersich (8) and Stewart; Suter, Jeffress (4), Drake (5), Hughes (6), Swarzak (7), Hader (8), Knebel (9) and Vogt, Pina. W-Jeffress 4-2. L-G. Cole 11-10. Sv-Knebel (35). HRs-Milwaukee, Thames.

Cincinnati 100 030 000-4 9 2
St Louis 231 202 30x-13 14 1
Stephenson, Chacin (4), R. Davis (5), A. Hernandez (7), McGuire (7) and S. Turner; Lynn, Cecil (6), Duke (8), S. Alcantara (9) and Molina, C. Kelly. W-Lynn 11-7. L-Stephenson 4-5. HRs-Cincinnati, Cozart. St Louis, DeJong.

New York 000 110 001-3 7 0
Chicago 000 411 11x-8 11 0
Gsellman, Milone (5), Rhame (6), Smoker (7), Flexen (8) and d'Arnaud; Quintana, Edwards (8), Wilson (9), Strop (9) and Contreras, Rivera. W-Quintana 10-11. L-Gsellman 6-7. HRs-Chicago, Schwarber, Happ, Bryant.

Miami 010 042 000 000-8 13 2
Philadelphia 101 000 131 001-9 17 0 (15 innings)
Peters, McGowan (7), Steckenrider (8), Barraclough (9), Ellington (10), Tazawa (12), J. Garcia (14), Guerra (15) and Realmuto; Pivetta, Milner (6), Arano (7), Siegrist (7), Pinto (8), Morgan (9), Neris (10), L. Garcia (12), E. Ramos (14) and Alfaro, Rupp. W-E. Ramos 2-7. L-Guerra 1-1. HRs-Miami, Dietrich, Ozuna. Philadelphia, Hoskins 2.

Colorado 002 000 200-4 7 1
Arizona 011 000 000-2 8 0
J. Gray, Oberg (8), Rusin (9) and Lucroy; T. Walker, Chafin (7), D. Hernandez (7), Hoover (8), De La Rosa (8) and Iannetta. W-J. Gray 8-4. L-D. Hernandez 3-1. Sv-Rusin (2). HRs-Colorado, Gonzalez 2. Arizona, Martinez.

Los Angeles 000 400 010-5 9 1
San Francisco001 001 100-3 14 0
Kershaw, Stripling (7), Morrow (8), Jansen (8) and Grandal; Cueto, Suarez (4), Moronta (6), Osich (7), Law (8), Gomez (9) and Hundley. W-Kershaw 17-3. L-Cueto 7-8. Sv-Jansen (37). HRs-Los Angeles, Utley. San Francisco, Tomlinson.

MLB Leaders

American League

BATTING: Altuve, Houston, .348; Hosmer, Kansas City, .327; Garcia, Chicago, .322; Reddick, Houston, .312; Ramirez, Cleveland, .309; Abreu, Chicago, .305; Andrus, Texas, .304; Mauer, Minnesota, .303; Schoop, Baltimore, .300; Cain, Kansas City, .299.

RUNS: Judge, New York, 109; Altuve, Houston, 99; Springer, Houston, 98; Andrus, Texas, 94; Ramirez, Cleveland, 94; Betts, Boston, 90; Choo, Texas, 89; CSantana, Cleveland, 89; Upton, Los Angeles, 89; 2 tied at 88.

RBI: Cruz, Seattle, 107; Schoop, Baltimore, 103; KDavis, Oakland, 101; Upton, Los Angeles, 99; Mazara, Texas, 94; Pujols, Los Angeles, 94; Abreu, Chicago, 92; Machado, Baltimore, 91; Judge, New York, 90; 2 tied at 88.

HITS: Altuve, Houston, 189; Hosmer, Kansas City, 177; Andrus, Texas, 175; Abreu, Chicago, 171; Schoop, Baltimore, 167; Ramirez, Cleveland, 165; Cabrera, Kansas City, 161; Lindor, Cleveland, 161; Cain, Kansas City, 158; Jones, Baltimore, 158.

DOUBLES: Ramirez, Cleveland, 47; Lowrie, Oakland, 44; Betts, Boston, 42; Andrus, Texas, 41; Upton, Los Angeles, 40; Abreu, Chicago, 38; Altuve, Houston, 38; Gurriel, Houston, 36; Lindor, Cleveland, 36; CSantana, Cleveland, 36.

TRIPLES: Castellanos, Detroit, 10; Sanchez, Chicago, 8; Abreu, Chicago, 6; Bogaerts, Boston, 6; Buxton, Minnesota, 6; Merrifield, Kansas City, 6; Ramirez, Cleveland, 6; 5 tied at 5.

HOME RUNS: Judge, New York, 41; KDavis, Oakland, 39; Gallo, Texas, 37; Smoak, Toronto, 37; Morrison, Tampa Bay, 36; Moustakas, Kansas City, 36; Encarnacion, Cleveland, 34; Cruz, Seattle, 32; Machado, Baltimore, 32; 3 tied at 31.

STOLEN BASES: Altuve, Houston, 31; Maybin, Houston, 30; RDavis, Boston, 28; DeShields, Texas, 28; Dyson, Seattle, 28; Merrifield, Kansas City, 28; Buxton, Minnesota, 25; Andrus, Texas, 24; Betts, Boston, 24; Cain, Kansas City, 24.

PITCHING: Bauer, Cleveland, 16-8; Kluber, Cleveland, 16-4; Sale, Boston, 16-7; Carrasco, Cleveland, 15-6; Pomeranz, Boston, 15-5; ESantana, Minnesota, 15-7; Vargas, Kansas City, 15-10; Bundy, Baltimore, 13-9; 6 tied at 12.

ERA: Kluber, Cleveland, 2.44; Sale, Boston, 2.76; Severino, New York, 2.96; Gray, New York, 3.17; Stroman, Toronto, 3.18; Cashner, Texas, 3.19; Pomeranz, Boston, 3.35; Carrasco, Cleveland, 3.41; ESantana, Minnesota, 3.45; Verlander, Houston, 3.58.

STRIKEOUTS: Sale, Boston, 278; Kluber, Cleveland, 243; Archer, Tampa Bay, 230; Severino, New York, 211; Carrasco, Cleveland, 201; Verlander, Houston, 192; Bauer, Cleveland, 177; Porcello, Boston, 167; Estrada, Toronto, 166; Tanaka, New York, 165.

National League

BATTING: Blackmon, Colorado, .335; JTurner, Los Angeles, .326; Harper, Washington, .325; Murphy, Washington, .321; Posey, San Francisco, .320; LeMahieu, Colorado, .316; Votto, Cincinnati, .314; Arenado, Colorado, .309; Inciarte, Atlanta, .308; Goldschmidt, Arizona, .307.

RUNS: Blackmon, Colorado, 129; Stanton, Miami, 111; Goldschmidt, Arizona, 103; Gordon, Miami, 99; Bryant, Chicago, 96; Votto, Cincinnati, 95; Harper, Washington, 92; Arenado, Colorado, 90; LeMahieu, Colorado, 90; Rizzo, Chicago, 90.

RBI: Arenado, Colorado, 123; Stanton, Miami, 113; Goldschmidt, Arizona, 112; Ozuna, Miami, 110; Rizzo, Chicago, 102; Lamb, Arizona, 99; Duvall, Cincinnati, 96; Zimmerman, Washington, 95; Reynolds, Colorado, 93; Votto, Cincinnati, 93.

HITS: Blackmon, Colorado, 196; Inciarte, Atlanta, 187; Gordon, Miami, 175; LeMahieu, Colorado, 173; Arenado, Colorado, 171; Ozuna, Miami, 168; Votto, Cincinnati, 158; Murphy, Washington, 157; Yelich, Miami, 157; Goldschmidt, Arizona, 154.

DOUBLES: Arenado, Colorado, 42; Murphy, Washington, 40; Herrera, Philadelphia, 38; Markakis, Atlanta, 36; Rendon, Washington, 36; Yelich, Miami, 35; Drury, Arizona, 34; Bryant, Chicago, 33; Duvall, Cincinnati, 33; Taylor, Los Angeles, 33.

TRIPLES: Blackmon, Colorado, 14; Hamilton, Cincinnati, 9; Fowler, St Louis, 8; Arenado, Colorado, 7; Cozart, Cincinnati, 7; Gordon, Miami, 7; 7 tied at 6.

HOME RUNS: Stanton, Miami, 54; Bellinger, Los Angeles, 36; Blackmon, Colorado, 34; Goldschmidt, Arizona, 34; Votto, Cincinnati, 34; Arenado, Colorado, 33; Ozuna, Miami, 33; Duvall, Cincinnati, 31; Rizzo, Chicago, 31; Zimmerman, Washington, 31.

STOLEN BASES: Hamilton, Cincinnati, 58; Gordon, Miami, 52; TTurner, Washington, 39; Villar, Milwaukee, 23; Peraza, Cincinnati, 22; Inciarte, Atlanta, 21; Reyes, New York, 20; 4 tied at 19.

PITCHING: Davies, Milwaukee, 17-8; Kershaw, Los Angeles, 17-3; Greinke, Arizona, 16-6; Arrieta, Chicago, 14-9; Gonzalez, Washington, 14-7; Scherzer, Washington, 14-5; Wood, Los Angeles, 14-3; deGrom, New York, 14-9; 4 tied at 13.

ERA: Kershaw, Los Angeles, 2.12; Scherzer, Washington, 2.32; Strasburg, Washington, 2.64; Gonzalez, Washington, 2.68; Ray, Arizona, 2.81; Greinke, Arizona, 3.00; Lynn, St Louis, 3.01; Martinez, St Louis, 3.33; Arrieta, Chicago, 3.48; Nelson, Milwaukee, 3.49.

STRIKEOUTS: Scherzer, Washington, 239; deGrom, New York, 221; Greinke, Arizona, 200; Martinez, St Louis, 200; Nelson, Milwaukee, 199; Ray, Arizona, 196; Samardzija, San Francisco, 190; Kershaw, Los Angeles, 188; Strasburg, Washington, 182; Cole, Pittsburgh, 178.

Indians 'equal' AL record with 20th straight victory



St Louis Cardinals' Greg Garcia scores on a double by Matt Carpenter as Cincinnati Reds catcher Stuart Turner receives the throw during the seventh inning of a baseball game on Sept 12, at Busch Stadium in St Louis. (AP)

Kershaw helps Dodgers end 11-game skid, clinch playoff spot

CLEVELAND, Sept 13, (AP): The Cleveland Indians share a record with a team celebrated by Hollywood.

"Moneyball" has its sequel.

Following a familiar script of scoring first, playing strong defense and riding dominant pitching, the Indians extended their winning streak to 20 games and matched the AL mark held by the 2002 Oakland Athletics, beating the Detroit Tigers 2-0 on Tuesday night.

Cleveland's streak, which began on Aug 24 in Boston, is tied for the majors' second-longest in 82 years and the Indians show no signs of stopping.

Corey Kluber (16-4) strengthened his Cy Young Award case with a four-hitter as Cleveland joined the 2002 A's, 1935 Chicago Cubs (21) and 1916 New York Giants (26) as the only teams since 1900 to win at least 20 in a row.

Francisco Lindor homered leading off the first inning against Matthew Boyd (5-10), and Kluber sealed win No. 20 and Cleveland's seventh shutout during the streak by getting Miguel Cabrera on an easy grounder to third.

Dodgers 5, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Clayton Kershaw pitched Los Angeles to its first win in nearly two weeks, helping the Dodgers clinch a playoff berth by beating San Francisco to snap an 11-game losing streak that was the club's worst since moving to the West Coast in 1958.

The Dodgers' slide was their longest in 25 years, topping 10-game skids in Los Angeles during the 1961 and 1992 seasons. The 1944 Brooklyn team lost 16 straight games.

Despite the recent tailspin, Los Angeles still owns the best record in the majors at 93-52. The NL West leaders won for only the second time in 18 games and secured at least the second NL wild card, joining the NL East champion Washington Nationals as the only teams to punch their postseason tickets so far.

Brewers 5, Pirates 2

In Milwaukee, Eric Thames hit his 29th home run, Domingo Santana went 3 for 4 with two RBIs and Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh.

The Brewers pulled within two games of the NL Central-leading Chicago Cubs who were playing the New York Mets.

Gerrit Cole (11-10) took his first loss in 10 road starts since the Atlanta Braves beat him 5-2 on May 22. He slipped to 8-1 away from PNC Park over that stretch after allowing five runs and seven hits in six innings. He tied his season-high with 10 strikeouts in his fifth start against Milwaukee this season.

Red Sox 11, Athletics 1

In Boston, Mookie Betts hit two home runs and a two-run triple, and Boston rolled past Oakland.

The Red Sox, winners of five of their last six, pushed their American League East lead back to four games over the Yankees following New York's loss to 2-1 loss to Tampa Bay.

Betts went 3 for 5 with six RBIs. He's driven in three runs or more in a team-high 11 games.

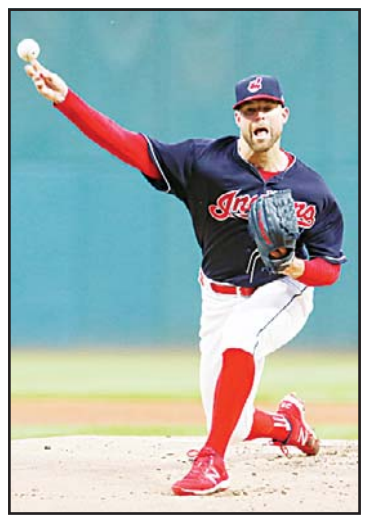
The loss snaps a five-game win streak for the A's. They managed just one run and one hit off Eduardo Rodriguez (5-5), who struck out nine over six innings.

Braves 8, Nationals 0

In Washington, Freddie Freeman hit a three-run home run off Gio Gonzalez and Julio Teheran threw seven shutout innings as Atlanta cruised past Washington.

Gonzalez (14-7) allowed five earned runs and seven hits in five innings and struck out eight. The left-hander did guarantee his $12 million option for next season with his first out of the game as he reached 180 innings this season.

The Nationals, who clinched the division Sunday when the Braves came back to beat the Miami in extra innings, lost for just the second time in eight games. This loss kept them from closing the gap on the Los Angeles Dodgers for the best record in baseball and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.



Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Corey Kluber delivers against the Detroit Tigers during the first inning in a baseball game on Sept 12, in Cleveland. (AP)

BASEBALL

Blue Jays 3, Orioles 2

In Toronto, Richard Urena singled home the winning run in the ninth inning and Toronto handed slumping Baltimore its sixth straight loss.

Facing Orioles closer Zach Britton (2-1), who had recorded the final out of the eighth, Kevin Pillar drew a lead-off walk in the ninth and went to third on Teoscar Hernandez's single. One out later, Pillar scored when Luke Maile singled off the glove of third baseman Manny Machado.

Urena followed with a single to center. Darwin Barney raced around from second and slid home safely ahead of the throw from Adam Jones.

Rays 2, Yankees 1

In New York, Adeiny Hechavarria hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning off Sonny Gray and Tampa Bay, playing as the home team in a series relocated to Citi Field because of Hurricane Irma, beat the Yankees.

Tampa Bay has split the first two games of the set held at the home of the New York Mets.

The Rays will fly back to Florida immediately after Wednesday afternoon's game for firsthand looks at the storm damage. No word yet from MLB if Boston and Tampa Bay will play at Tropicana Field on Friday night as scheduled the Rays expect to host the three-game set, but it could be reconfigured to give them an extra day off to handle personal matters.



Chicago Cubs' Kris Bryant hits a three run home run against the New York Mets during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Chicago on Sept 12. (AP)

Royals 4, White Sox 3

In Kansas City, Missouri, Brandon Moss hit a grand slam in the first inning for his third consecutive game with a homer, powering Kansas City past Chicago.

Scott Alexander worked out of a ninth-inning jam for his fourth save in six chances. He yielded a double to Adam Engel and a single to Yolmer Sanchez to lead off the ninth. He struck out Yoan Moncada, retired Jose Abreu on a pop to Whit Merrifield and got pinch hitter Matt Davidson on a grounder to end the game.

White Sox rookie Dylan Covey (0-5) walked the bases loaded before Moss drove a full-count fastball to right-center. It was Moss's fourth career grand slam and his first since July 24, 2014. He has nine RBIs in his past three games.

Astros 1, Angels 0

In Anaheim, California, Justin Verlander pitched eight innings of one-hit ball in a stellar second start for Houston, and the Astros snapped their four-game skid.

Yuli Gurriel's second-inning single drove in the only run for the Astros (87-57), who lowered their magic number for clinching the AL West title to five by blanking the second-place Angels (73-71).

Verlander (12-8) struck out nine and walked one in another overpowering performance for his new team. The star right-hander held the Angels without a hit after Brandon Phillips' leadoff double in the first, allowing only two more baserunners.

Phillies 9, Marlins 8, 15 Innings

In Philadelphia, Nick Williams hit a walk-off, two-out double in the bottom of the 15th inning, scoring Aaron Altherr as Philadelphia rallied for the win.

Innings-wise, it was the longest game of the season for the Phillies and second-longest for the Marlins.

Williams had three hits and reached base five times in the marathon game. He has 47 RBIs since being called up the week before the All-Star break.

The Phillies celebrated with Williams, but thought they actually had a walk-off win in the bottom of the ninth on an RBI single by pinch-hitter Hyun-Soo Kim, but while the Phillies mobbed Kim at first base, ripping off his jersey and dousing him with water, Gatorade and sunflower seeds, the Marlins challenged the play at the plate.

Twins 16, Padres 0

In Minneapolis, Jason Castro homered twice and Brian Dozier was a double from the cycle as Minnesota routed San Diego.

The Twins hit a season-high seven home runs, setting a Target Field record for most homers in a game, to back another strong start from Kyle Gibson. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, the Twins set a major league record by homering in each of the first seven innings with Jorge Polanco, Eddie Rosario, Eduardo Escobar and Kennys Vargas adding to the total.

Gibson (10-10) pitched six innings with four hits and six strikeouts. He has allowed two runs or fewer in five straight starts for Minnesota, which maintained its hold on the second wild card spot in the American League.

Mariners 10, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Texas, Ben Gamel and Kyle Seager both hit three-run homers to lead Seattle past Texas in a matchup of wild card hopefuls.

Texas (72-72) and Seattle (72-73) have split the first two games of their four-game series. The Rangers dropped three games behind Minnesota for the American League's second wild card, while the Mariners remained 3-1/2 back after the Twins also won.

Seager's homer in the third made it 7-1 and chased Miguel Gonzalez (7-11), who made his second start overall and first at home for the Rangers since they acquired him in an Aug 31 trade with the Chicago White Sox. Gonzalez allowed seven runs and seven hits while recording only seven outs.

Cardinals 13, Reds 4

In St Louis, Paul DeJong homered, Yadier Molina drove in three runs and streaking St Louis outslugged Cincinnati.

The Cardinals have won four straight and six of their last seven to stay two games behind the first-place Chicago Cubs in the NL Central.

Molina's two-out, two-run double in the bottom of the first gave the Cardinals a 2-1 lead. He drove in his 10th run over his past three games with a single in the sixth. Molina leads the team with 75 RBIs.

Cubs 8, Mets 3

In Chicago, Kris Bryant hit a three-run homer, Jose Quintana pitched seven effective innings and Chicago got a sorely needed victory.

Quintana (10-11) also helped himself at the plate with a pair of sacrifices, including a perfectly placed safety squeeze that drove in Kyle Schwarber in the fourth. Quintana got another bunt down in the sixth, sending Javier Baez to third ahead of Ben Zobrist's RBI single.

Chicago had lost three in a row and six of eight, making for a crowded race at the top of the NL Central. St. Louis and Milwaukee also won Tuesday night, so the Cubs remained two games ahead of the Cardinals and 2-1/2 games better than the third-place Brewers.

Rockies 4, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Carlos Gonzalez, heating up for the stretch run after a subpar season at the plate, homered twice and Colorado won its sixth in a row.

Gonzalez drove in all four Colorado runs in his first multihomer game since Aug. 16 last year and is batting .451 (14 for 31) in September.

Jon Gray (8-4) gave up two runs and scattered seven hits over seven solid innings, striking out 10 with no walks and a hit batter for the Rockies, who won their eighth straight road game to pull within three games of Arizona for the first NL wild card.

LPGA's October Shanghai event cancelled

MIAMI, Sept 13, (AFP): The Alisports LPGA tournament scheduled to be played in Shanghai Oct 5-8 has been cancelled due to local permitting problems in China, the LPGA announced on Tuesday.

"It is with deep regret that I need to announce that we will not be playing the event in Shanghai this year," LPGA Commissioner Mike Whan said in a statement issued in Daytona Beach, Florida.

"Unfortunately, we have just received word that the tournament was unsuccessful in obtaining approval from the local district government.

"The hardest part about this news is that we have a title sponsor, a tournament operator, a TV production group and a host venue all set to go. However, in China, sporting events of this nature cannot take place without approvals at multiple levels – and the local approval was denied."

The LPGA announced in October of last year that it was partnering with Alisports of Shanghai, a division of Alibaba Group, to own an LPGA tournament hosted annually in mainland China for the next 10 years.

GOLF

Serena reveals baby to world in touching home movie

Krunic rolls on in Japan after Date tear-jerker

TOKYO, Sept 13, (AFP): Serbia's Aleksandra Krunic powered on at the Japan Women's Open on Wednesday by eliminating seventh seed Alison Riske, a day after ushering local favourite Kimiko Date into retirement.

It was a day of upsets at the Tokyo hardcourt tournament, with top seed Kristina Mladenovic the biggest scalp as the Frenchwoman was bundled out 6-4, 6-3 by Croatian qualifier Jana Fett in the first round.

World number 67 Krunic, who whitewashed the 46-year-old Date on Tuesday, stormed to a 6-3, 6-4 win over American Riske in sweltering conditions to reach the quarter-finals.

Third seed Elise Mertens also booked her place in the last eight, the Belgian overpowering Poland's Magda Linette 6-1, 7-5. But there was another surprise later on Wednesday when Japan's Miyu Kato toppled fourth seed Kristyna Pliskova — twin sister of world number one Karolina — 7-5, 6-3 to set up a meeting with Krunic.

In first-round matches, Kurumi Nara upset sixth seed Naomi Osaka 6-3, 6-0 as the next generation of Japanese tennis players took centre stage after Date's tearful exit.

Osaka, who reached the third round of the US Open earlier this month after stunning defending champion Angelique Kerber, left her game in the locker room as she came out inexplicably flat. Australia's former US Open winner Samantha Stosur was bundled out by Spain's Sara Sorribes, who came from a set down to beat the fifth seed 3-6, 7-5, 6-1.

❑ ❑ ❑

Two weeks after becoming a first-time mother, tennis legend **Serena Williams** revealed her baby daughter to the world Wednesday in an online montage that featured moments from early sonograms to just after the birth.

In the touching compilation posted on Williams' Instagram account, the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion also said that there had been "complications" in the delivery of **Alexis Olympia Ohanian.**

"It's been a long time, but we had a lot of complications, but look who we got — we got a baby girl!" said Williams in one segment of the home movie as she left the hospital with fiance and Reddit co-founder **Alex Ohanian.**

She said the couple had spent almost a week at the hospital after the Sept 1 delivery, but did not say what the complications had been. Media reports said the birth had been induced by doctors.

The clips show the pregnant tennis star — who turns 36 at the end of this month — showing off her belly bump, dancing and practicing her game, as well as shots of the expectant couple assembling their daughter's nursery.

The film appeared to be meant as much for her daughter's future viewing as for Williams' millions of ecstatic fans, with the pregnant tennis mom telling the camera as she filmed her belly, "You move at 10:15 or 10:30 every night."

❑ ❑ ❑

Maria Sharapova muses on her long, lopsided rivalry with **Serena Williams** in a new autobiography released on Tuesday and how she believes a locker room moment fueled the American's drive to dominate her.

TENNIS

The Russian-born Sharapova was 17 when she defeated Williams in the 2004 Wimbledon final. Rather than proving the start of a long, close-run rivalry, it was one of just two victories Sharapova can claim against the US great, who has beaten her 19 times.

In her new book, "Unstoppable: My Life So Far," Sharapova says it was not only her victory, but the fact that she overheard Williams weeping afterwards in the locker room that ensured the American would always find a way to elevate her game in their future contests.

"It went on and on. I got out as quickly as I could, but she knew I was there. People often wonder why I have had so much trouble beating Serena; she's owned me in the past ten years.

'Right to Dream'

African academy aims to curb players exploitation

LONDON, Sept 13, (RTRS): Floodlit stadiums, adoring fans and huge salaries - following in the footsteps of transfer-record breaking football superstars such as Neymar and Kylian Mbappé and playing for one of Europe's leading clubs is the dream of every young player worldwide.

But beneath the big money headlines is an underbelly of exploitation of youngsters from developing nations, experts say.

Countless boys in West Africa enrol in football academies, giving up on an education and splashing the family savings in their quest to establish a career at one of Europe's top teams.


Neymar

Yet many of them are duped, taken abroad and dumped by unscrupulous men posing as agents, according to activists.

Tom Vernon, founder of Right to Dream (RTD) football academy in Ghana and owner of Danish Superliga club FC Nordsjlland, is striving to end such exploitation by offering a safe route for young African footballers with dreams of making it in Europe.

Education is key - in terms of both studying and learning about the potential pitfalls of going abroad too soon, he said.

"It's a constant battle to stop people exploiting kids," Vernon told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by telephone.

"Without parental support or an educational base, a young player is basically going to get eaten alive, and that still happens on a regular basis," the former football scout added.

Earlier this year, newspaper Corriere della Sera reported that two Italian clubs were under investigation for using faked documents to allow West African minors to enter Italy illegally.

These children are among the some 15,000 young players moved from West Africa each year under false pretences, estimates the charity Foot Solidaire, but a lack of monitoring means the number being trafficked abroad could be far higher, experts say.

Yet exploitation of young players is a worldwide problem.

Reports have emerged in recent years of Liberian boys being trafficked to an academy in Laos and trapped there in debt bondage, and Brazilian teenagers recruited from the Amazon to an academy in Sao Paolo, sleeping four to a mattress in a bedsit.

Vernon, a former scout for Manchester United, based the RTD academy on the American athlete scholarship model in which players continue to study while being trained at an elite level.

The Ghana-based academy spends about $25,000 a year on each student, which covers education, training, housing, food, travel and equipment, with players gaining scholarships to continue their education in Britain and North America while playing.

The $5 million facility - which boasts a school, dormitories including one for girls, and eight grass pitches - is a world apart from the many ramshackle academies across West Africa.

"The vast majority (of players) are coming from $2-a-day families," Vernon said. "They come into an environment where they are fed four times a day, at an international school with beautiful grass pitches. It is about getting the right balance."

Off the pitch, the players focus on subjects such as science, engineering and maths in the school's robotics lab.

"Our boys and girls are passionate about STEM subjects and can feed that section of Ghanaian society afterwards," Vernon said. "Our ambition is that kids can drop into societies around the world and have other strings to their bow," he added.

Yet most young players in the region are not so fortunate - and more may fall into the hands of crooked agents as Africa's population swells and jobs become more scarce, says James Esson, a migration expert at Loughborough University in England.

Vernon says that many youngsters from poorer backgrounds are prey to exploitation and trafficking as agents seek to take advantage of their financial strife, and a lack of awareness.

SOCCER

"In a lot of cases they (agents) pose as a big saviour ... (but) aren't trying to represent the best interests of players." For 22-year-old Ghanaian Godsway Donyoh, RTD helped him secure a contract with Manchester City, then a move to FC Nordsjlland in Denmark in pursuit of more playing time.

While Donyoh believes his move to the Premier League club at the age of 18 came too soon in his development - he said his education gave him the conviction that he would succeed abroad.

"My dad sat me down and said before you can play football, you need to go to school," Donyoh said, recalling how a failure to hit his required grades at the academy led to his boots being confiscated for a month, forcing him to focus on his studies.

Ghana's Football Association (GFA) backs the RTD education-first approach and is working with parents and the police to crack down on bogus, unregulated academies - which it says are inspired by soaring transfer fees, wages and agents payments.

Vernon has bigger ambitions for the model. He hopes players will use their experiences to invest in their home communities.

In one such case, US-based RTD graduate David Accam, who plays for Chicago Fire and has represented the Ghanaian national team, funded a community pitch back home in Ghana last year. "It will be interesting to see if the professional game is willing to move towards this model," Vernon said.

Reds stun Kawasaki for semis

Urawa score 3 goals in 15-minute blitz

SAITAMA, Japan, Sept 13, (AFP): Urawa Reds scored three goals in a 15-minute blitz to floor Japanese rivals Kawasaki Frontale 4-1 in a fiery encounter Wednesday and reach the Asian Champions League semifinals.

Slovenian Zlatan Ljubijankic, Brazilian Rafael Silva and Toshiyuki Takagi all scored late goals against 10-man Kawasaki as the home side overturned a two-goal deficit to win 5-4 on aggregate.

The Reds, who won Asia's premier club competition in 2007, will face China's Shanghai SIPG in the last four after a see-saw struggle.

"We kept our heads after going behind," Reds manager Takafumi Hori told local media.

"Obviously it was a huge factor that they went down to 10 men but we still had to get the job done."

Brazilian Elsinho put Kawasaki in front after 19 minutes, flicking the ball home after a comic error from goalkeeper Shusaku Nishikawa to stretch their lead to three goals after winning the first leg 3-1.

But Shinzo Koroki pulled one back for Urawa in the 35th minute before the tie took a dramatic twist moments later when Frontale defender Shintaro Kurumaya was sent off for a high boot that caught Koroki in the face.


Kawasaki Frontale defender Eduardo (left), kicks the ball next to Urawa Reds defender Ryota Moriwaki (right), during the AFC Champions League quarter-final match between Urawa Reds and Kawasaki Frontale in Saitama on Sept 13. (AFP)

SOCCER

At times it appeared that both teams were more interested in fisticuffs and rolling on the ground in mock agony than playing football, while several shots were more of a threat to low-flying aircraft than the goalkeepers. But when substitute Ljubijankic headed Urawa's second of the night to make it 4-3 on aggregate, Kawasaki began to look frayed and a Rafael Silva bullet levelled the tie on 83 minutes.

As Kawasaki wilted in the humid conditions, Takagi's shin connected with an attempted left-foot volley two minutes later and the ball looped over goalkeeper Jung Sung-Ryong for a dramatic winner.

"To be honest, that goal wasn't 100 percent how I planned to hit it but it went in so I'll take it," said Takagi sheepishly. "We've come this far so we have to make sure we reach the final now."

Kawasaki striker Yu Kobayashi said: "We thought we were in control after scoring first but we just weren't good enough. We have to put this behind us and focus on chasing other titles now."

Urawa, currently eighth in the J-League table, face Andre Villas-Boas's Shanghai side away on Sept 27 in the first leg of their semifinal.

The return fixture will be played on Oct 18.

Japanese sides have struggled in the Asian Champions League since Urawa's victory in 2007 and Gamba Osaka's triumph a year later, and Shanghai SIPG will go into the semi-final as firm favourites.

Soccer Roundup

Bundesliga boss wants shorter transfer window

'FIFA still resistant to change'

LONDON, Sept 13, (Agencies): FIFA is struggling to implement reforms and change its operating culture because its leaders are more worried about their own political futures, a former top official said on Wednesday.

The global soccer body has been trying to overhaul its operations in the wake of the worst crisis in its history, sparked in 2015 by the indictment in the United States of several dozen soccer officials on corruption-related charges.

Miguel Maduro, a former head of FIFA's independent governance and review committee, also told a British parliamentary hearing that FIFA's leadership tried to persuade him not to block Russian Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko from being re-elected to its top committee.

Neither FIFA nor Infantino could immediately be reached for comment.

❑ ❑ ❑

The Bundesliga looks set to follow the example of England's Premier League by voting to shorten the transfer window, with German Football League (DFL) chief **Reinhard Rauball** proposing changes.

Germany's 36 professional clubs are set to hold a vote at their general assembly in December and Rauball wants the Bundesliga clubs to agree to close the transfer window before the season starts.

Last week, the English Premier League clubs voted to shut the 2018 close-season window before the start of the 2018-19 campaign in a move that sparked approval across the European game.


Infantino

Now Rauball is hoping the German clubs will do the same.

Currently, the season in Germany starts in mid-August and the transfer window closes on the last day of the month, which can unsettle squads with players coming and going with fixtures already underway.

❑ ❑ ❑

Handsomely paid **Carlos Tevez** is overweight and will not play again for **Shanghai Shenhua** until he gets fit, the Chinese club's new coach has warned.

The 33-year-old Tevez is one of the best-paid players on the planet on reported weekly wages of about 730,000 euros (US$870,000) but has scored just twice this season and missed half the games with injury.

The former **Manchester United, Manchester City** and **Juventus** star has hinted that he will quit China at the end of the season in November and has been branded "very homesick boy" by angry Shenhua fans and Chinese media.

❑ ❑ ❑

Spanish and European champions **Real Madrid** announced a two-year contract extension for Brazilian left back **Marcelo** on Wednesday, hours after the player's appeal against a domestic suspension was rejected.

Now in his 12th season at Real, Marcelo is the second longest serving player after captain **Sergio Ramos,** having joined the Spanish giants from Brazilian side **Fluminense** aged 18 back in January 2007, and is the longest serving foreign player in the club's history.

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Greece to grant permits for Eldorado Gold's Olympias project this week

Tokyo 2020 domestic sponsor revenue at record $2.8 billion

LIMA, Sept 13, (RTRS): Domestic sponsorship for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics has so far reached a record $2.8 billion — almost three times as much as in any previous summer Games — the International Olympic Committee said on Wednesday.

John Coates, the head of the IOC's Tokyo Games co-ordination commission, praised organisers for their achievement, during his address to the IOC session in the Peruvian capital.

"The report (of Tokyo 2020) confirms the very positive impression that the co-ordination commission has," Coates said, adding that revenue from the 43 domestic sponsorship deals

OLYMPICS

signed by Tokyo organisers so far had exceeded expectations.

"Forty-three domestic partnerships — that's three times their initial budget (of around $1 billion for domestic sponsorship) — and the gross amount is $2.8 billion, a remarkable achievement for domestic sponsorship," Coates said.

The London 2012 Games raised about $1.1 billion, while Rio de Janeiro in 2016 had claimed it had slightly surpassed London, but final accounts are sketchy given the current investigations for corruption linked to Olympic Games projects in Brazil.

Tokyo struggled with preparations after being awarded the Games in 2013, having to scrap expensive plans for a new stadium, sharply reducing a ballooning budget last year from more than $26 billion to $16.8 billion and dealing with a number of environmental issues.

"We are very impressed with the quality of the team. We are confident that their (Tokyo 2020) project will impress the world and bring new audiences, especially with the addition of new sports."

The IOC approved the inclusion of skateboarding, sport climbing, surfing, karate and baseball/softball at the request of organisers in an effort to attract a younger generation of viewers.

Meanwhile, Greece's Energy Minister assured protesting Eldorado Gold workers on Wednesday that it would grant outstanding permits this week to enable the Canadian miner to fully operate one of its Greek projects.

Eldorado Gold threatened on Monday to suspend investment at three Greek projects, demanding permits and clarifications on an upcoming arbitration process. Dozens of Eldorado Gold workers rallied outside the energy ministry earlier in protest at potential job losses.

Differences over the investment, one of the biggest in Greece in years, have dragged on for years, especially over compliance with environmental regulations, testing Greece's resolve to encourage foreign investments.

The company said on Monday that no additional investment would be made into Olympias and Skouries projects and the Stratoni mine from Sept 22, only days after the leftist-led government urged investors to show confidence in Greece as it emerges from crisis.

"Licensing for Olympias ... will be concluded in the coming days, today and tomorrow," Greek Energy Minister George Stathakis said in an effort to diffuse tension. "Three permits will be issued as we announced in August, allowing Olympias to be fully operational."

Eldorado spent about 2 billion dollars to acquire the Greek asssets in 2012 and has invested over 1 billion dollars in developing them. It says it employs about 2,000 people in Greece, where unemployment stands at 21.2 percent, the euro zone's highest.

About 100 workers, in yellow vests, rallied outside the ministry early on Wednesday unfurling a banner reading "Occupation" in front of a police cordon. Some of them stormed into the building, according to one police official.

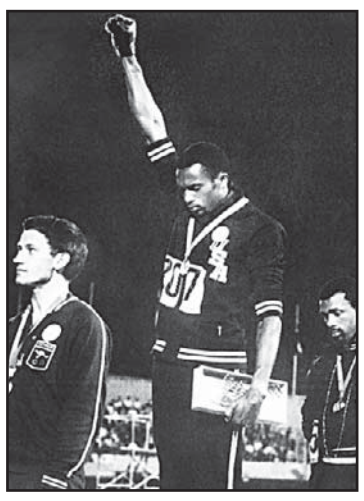
Police later fired some rounds of tear gas to disperse them.

Eldorado's Greek unit Hellas Gold welcomed Stathakis' comments:"We are pleased to hear the minister's comments although we've not received any permits yet. We look forward to receiving the outstanding permits for both Olympias and Skouries soon."

Eldorado's plans to develop its mine operations in the northern region of Halkidiki have provoked violent protests by locals who fear they will ruin a landscape of pristine beaches and lush forests.

It is sensitive for Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' Syriza party, which strongly opposed the investment before coming to power in 2015. His government now says it wants the project as long as it is "environmentally and economically sound".

Stathakis said on Tuesday the ores that will be produced will contain arsenic, which will well exceed accepted levels, and therefore the government should make sure the company fully abides by environmental rules.



This file photo taken on Oct 17, 1968 shows US athletes Tommie Smith (center), and John Carlos (right), raising their gloved fists in the Black Power salute to express their opposition to racism in the USA during the US national anthem, after receiving their medals for first and third place in the men's 200m event at the Mexico Olympic Games. At left is Peter Norman of Australia who took second place. (AFP)

Monument push for Australia's 'Black Power' hero

SYDNEY, Sept 13, (AFP): A campaign was launched Wednesday for a monument to recognise an unsung Australian athlete who supported two Americans in their famous Black Power salute at the 1968 Olympics.

Peter Norman, silver medallist in the 200m at Mexico City, stood on the podium alongside US sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos, who both put a black-gloved fist in the air in a civil rights protest.

He backed their gesture and wore an Olympic Project for Human Rights badge in support, but was then frozen out of future Games selection and airbrushed from Australian Olympic history until recently.

"His contribution to racial equality has never really been recognised in this country," Peter Norman Commemoration Committee convenor Joseph Toscano told AFP.

"I think Australian society has changed. I think we are seeing the rise of political movements and organisations promoting racial inequality and hatred.

"We felt that it's important... to recognise not just Peter Norman and his family, but also the stand he took because every man, every woman who stands up makes a difference."

The push follows American protests over Confederate statues that hark back to the nation's slave-owning past, although Toscano said the campaign was not sparked by the US debate over monuments.

WADA 'clears' 95 Russian athletes of doping charges

WASHINGTON, Sept 13, (AFP): The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is set to clear 95 Russian athletes investigated over involvement in the country's alleged mammoth doping programme, the New York Times reported Wednesday.

A leaked internal WADA report published by the newspaper Tuesday said the agency found it could not gather enough evidence against 95 out of 96 Russian athletes who it has been probing.

"The available evidence was insufficient to support the assertion of an anti-doping rule violation against these 95 athletes," WADA Director General Olivier Niggli wrote in the document. The report did not name any of the athletes under investigation.

A string of WADA reports has previously uncovered reams of evidence that the Russian authorities ran a large-scale programme to help competitors cheat international doping tests.

Russia's Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) was declared "non-compliant" with international sport's anti-doping code in November 2015 and its track and field Olympics squad and entire Paralympics team were barred from Rio 2016.

An independent investigation for the agency by professor Richard McLaren in 2016 implicated some 1,000 athletes in the doping system.

Moscow has furiously denied that it ran a state-sponsored scheme to cheat at international sporting events and insists it is doing its best to crack down on dopers.

And Russian officials said WADA's decision only served to shed doubt on the revelations in McLaren's report.

"In general the information of the McLaren report appears to be incomplete and moreover in many cases unreliable," R-Sport agency quoted Stanislav Pozdnyakov, the deputy chief of Russia's Olympic

ATHLETICS

Committee, as saying.

"For the moment none of Russia's 1,000 athletes mentioned in the McLaren report has been found guilty or banned on the basis of his information. Meanwhile, a year has already passed (since the report was issued)."

While this latest twist may help bolster the Kremlin's claims, Niggli suggested to the New York Times that an absence of evidence did not necessarily prove Russia's innocence.

"The system was very well-organized," Niggli said. "On top if it, years after the fact, the remaining evidence is often very limited."

Niggli said that invetigations into other athletes implicated in the doping scheme are ongoing.

Amla, Perera lead World XI Twenty20 win over Pakistan

Tourists beat hosts to level series 1-1

LAHORE, Pakistan, Sept 13, (AFP): Sri Lanka all-rounder Thisara Perera hit a towering six off the penultimate ball to steer the World XI to a thrilling seven-wicket win over Pakistan in the second Twenty20 Wednesday.

Perera made a whirlwind 19-ball 47 not out with five sixes, while Hashim Amla finished not out 72 off 55 balls to help the World XI overhaul a 175-run target and level the three-match series 1-1 before a packed Gaddafi stadium in Lahore.

That left the series intriguingly placed with the final match on Friday, also in Lahore.

Pakistan had registered a 20-run win in Tuesday's first match, which marked the return of international cricket to Pakistan.

CRICKET

Left-hander Perera went on a rampage as the visitors needed 33 off the last two overs, smashing two sixes off the 19th over bowled by Sohail Khan before sealing the match in the last over.

Amla, who scored his seventh international Twenty20 half-century, was the steadier of the two, with two sixes and five fours as he helped Perera add 69 runs for the fourth wicket off just 35 balls.

That partnership lifted the World XI after they lost Tamim Iqbal (23), Tim Paine (10) and skipper Faf du Plessis (20).

Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed gave credit to the visitors.

"World XI deserves the credit," said Ahmed. "Amla and Perera kept it till late and did it. Our bowlers are young and this is an occasion for them to learn how to bowl in such situations.

Pakistan had scored 174-6 in their 20 overs.

Babar Azam (45), Ahmed Shehzad (43) and Shoaib Malik (39) had good starts but none of them went on to score big, as Pakistan found it tough going on a slow and low pitch after winning the toss.

Opener Fakhar Zaman fell for 21 in the fifth over before Shehzad and Azam steadied the innings with a 59-run stand for the second wicket.

Malik hit two sixes in the last over before holing out off the last delivery of the innings.

During his 23-ball knock Malik became the leading run scorer for Pakistan in Twenty20 international cricket, overhauling Umar Akmal's aggregate of 1,690 runs in 88 matches by two runs.

He now has 1,692 in 88 matches.

Perera (2-23) and West Indian spinner Badree (2-31) were the main wicket takers for the visitors.



World XI batsman Hashim Amla (right), plays a shot as Pakistani captain and wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed looks on during the second Twenty20 international cricket match between the World XI and Pakistan at The Gaddafi Cricket Stadium in Lahore on Sept 13. (AFP)

Pakistan vs World XI Scoreboard

LAHORE, Pakistan, Sept 13, (AFP): Scoreboard of the second Twenty20 international between Pakistan and World XI played at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore on Wednesday.

PAKISTAN

F. Zaman lbw b Badree 21
A. Shehzad c Miller b Tahir 43
B. Azam c Miller b Badree 45
S. Malik c Collingwood b Cutting ... 39
I. Wasim c Tahir b Perera 15
A. Ahmed c Tahir b Perera 0
S. Khan not out 1
Extras: (lb1, nb1, w8) 10
Total: (for six wickets; 20 overs) .. 174

Did not bat: Mohammad Nawaz, Shadab Khan, Usman Shinwari, Rumman Raees

Fall of wickets: 1-41 (Zaman), 2-100 (Shehzad), 3-135 (Azam), 4-156 (Wasim), 5-157 (Ahmed), 6-174 (Malik)

Bowling: Morkel 4-0-20-0 (3w), Cutting 4-0-52-1 (2w), Badree 4-0-31-2 (1w), Collingwood 2-0-18-0 (1w), Perera 3-0-23-2 (1nb), Tahir 3-0-29-1 (1w)

WORLD XI

Tamim Iqbal c Malik b Khan 23
Hashim Amla not out 72
T. Paine b Wasim 10
F.du Plessis c Shadab b Nawaz 20
T. Perera not out 47
Extras: (lb1, w2) 3
Total: (for 3 wkts; 19.5 overs) 175

Fall of wickets: 1-47 (Iqbal), 2-71 (Paine), 3-106 (du Plessis)

Did not bat: D. Miller, P. Collingwood, B. Cutting, S. Badree, M. Morkel, Imran Tahir

Bowling: Wasim 4-0-27-1, Khan 4-0-44-1 (1w), Shinwari 1-0-10-0, Raees 3.5-0- 36-0 (1w), Nawaz 3-0-25-1, Shadab 4-0-32-0

Result: World XI win by seven wickets

Holder disappointed

Windies face tough WC challenge after washout

BELFAST, Sept 13, (AFP): West Indies will need to smash hosts England in the upcoming one-day international series to avoid the ignominy of being forced to qualify for the World Cup after a washout against Ireland on Wednesday.

The game at Stormont was scrapped without a ball being bowled after fresh rain followed an overnight soaking for the pitch, leaving the umpires with no choice.

It means the 1975 and 1979 World Cup winners will have to beat England 5-0 or 4-0 with either a tie or a no-result in order to qualify ahead of eighth-placed Sri Lanka, who are eight points ahead in the rankings.

Only the top seven ODI sides, apart from hosts England, currently ranked fourth, as of September 30 will qualify directly for the 50-over showpiece event in 2019.

Teams that do not gain direct entry will get another shot through a qualifying tournament.

West Indies captain Jason Holder said qualifying automatically would be a tough task but he is looking forward to the series, which starts in Manchester next week.

CRICKET

"England are a quality cricket side and they are playing at home," said the skipper.

"We're at the stage where we are looking to turn a corner and qualify for the World Cup, whether we have to go through the qualifiers or qualify automatically. We're excited for the series and hopefully we can play some good cricket.

"It won't be an embarrassment to play in the qualifiers. We are where we are and if we do have to play in them, we will take it one step at a time."

The West Indies, who lost the recent Test series against England 2-1, have been boosted by the return of Chris Gayle while Marlon Samuels will join up with the squad after a family bereavement.

"We are still a work in progress and hopefully more players are coming back," said Holder.

"Meantime, we have a young group of players challenging for places and hopefully they can come in and make their presence felt and feel more comfortable in the international arena."

Holder was disappointed at missing out on playing on Wednesday but could not disagree with the umpires' decision.

"Very disappointed. It was set to be a good occasion for Irish cricket and it's great to be here, albeit it's very, very cold," he said.

"It's just unfortunate the weather intervened but it was very wet out there and the last shower settled it."

The abandonment means Ireland are still waiting to play their first match against a Test-playing side since being granted full member status by the International Cricket Council in June.

West Indies fly to England on Thursday ahead of a one-off Twenty20 international at Chester-le-Street on Saturday. The ODI series starts at Old Trafford on Sept 19.



West Indies' captain Jason Holder bowls on the first day of the third Test match between England and the West Indies at Lord's cricket ground in London on Sept 7. (AP)

'Stepping stone in the right direction'

ICC backs Pakistan's bid to host full cricket series

LAHORE, Pakistan, Sept 13, (AP): World cricket's governing body wants international teams back in Pakistan after an eight-year absence due to security concerns but cautioned that it could be a "long process."

The Pakistan Cricket Board is currently hosting a three-match Twenty20 series between Pakistan and a World XI in Lahore amid heavy security.

"ICC has already agreed to invest in security and develop security capabilities (of Pakistan) for a three-year period," International Cricket Council chief executive David Richardson said Wednesday. "Certainly I think the intention would be to bring member countries to tour Pakistan, not a World XI tour, and that would be the ideal to have international cricket return to Pakistan in normal circumstances."

Richardson said it was too early to say when the PCB could host a full bilateral series and organize international games in other big cities like Karachi and Rawalpindi.

"It's a long process," Richardson said. "This is a stepping stone in the right direction. I think the next step is to improve capabilities to areas and cities outside of Lahore itself."

Only Zimbabwe has toured Pakistan for a short limited-overs series in 2015 since an attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in Lahore in 2009. But Lahore is expected to host four T20 internationals over the next two months — a one-off match against Sri Lanka and a three-match series against West Indies in November.

The ICC will give the PCB $1.1 million over the next three years to improve security and will also share its expertise. ICC security experts are in Lahore, monitoring arrangements to protect the World XI team.

Fourteen players from seven countries — South Africa, Australia, England, West Indies, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and New Zealand — formed the World XI which is led by South Africa's Faf du Plessis.

CRICKET

Richardson explained why no Indian player was part of the World XI team.

"The fact is you can't ignore the situation that exists between India and Pakistan at a political level," he said. "Any Indian player being part of the tour, you can imagine the focus that would've been on that player and the pressures that would've brought from the security point of view."

The Punjab provincial government has deployed several thousand security officials around the 25,000 capacity Gaddafi Stadium for the matches against the World XI. Fans have to go through at least four security checkpoints before entering into the stadium.



International Cricket Council (ICC) Chief Executive David Richardson (left), addresses a press conference along with Chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Najam Sethi at the Gaddafi Cricket Stadium in Lahore on Sept 13. (AFP)

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Paris, LA confirmed as Olympic hosts

Historic first for IOC

LIMA, Sept 13, (AFP): The International Olympic Committee named Paris and Los Angeles as hosts for the 2024 and 2028 Olympics on Wednesday, crowning two cities at the same time in a historic first for the embattled sports body.

Loud applause rang out at the Lima Convention Centre shortly after the IOC membership voted to approve a deal hashed out in July which arranged for Paris to be given 2024 and Los Angeles 2028.

Paris and Los Angeles bid leaders joined International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach on stage as the award was confirmed, embracing after an outcome hailed as a "win-win-win" by the IOC.

Both Paris and Los Angeles made final presentations to IOC delegates before the formality of the rubber-stamp vote was taken.

"You can't imagine what this means to us, incredible, so strong," Paris 2024 co-chairman Tony Estanguet told delegates shortly before the vote.

It marked the final act of a campaign that had been stripped of the usual intrigue ever since Paris and Los Angeles agreed to carve up 2024 and 2028 in July following encouragement from the IOC.

Paris 2024 officials hugged and cheered following the vote, basking in victory after three previous failed bids to land the 1992, 2008 and 2012 Olympics.

The 2024 Games will mark the third time Paris has staged the Olympics, coming exactly 100 years after they last hosted the Games.

Los Angeles 2028 officials also celebrated the return of the Olympics to US soil.

The 2028 Olympics will be the first held in the United States since the chaotic 1996 Games in Atlanta.

It will also mark the third time that Los Angeles has hosted the Olympics following successful editions in 1932 and 1984.

"Los Angeles reflects the face of America's future and the heart of American values of inclusiveness, generosity and unity," Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti said during his final pitch to IOC members.

Paris and Los Angeles emerged

OLYMPICS

from the initial bidding race for the 2024 Games after a number of cities withdrew citing waning public support and concerns over budget.

Hamburg, Rome, Budapest and Boston all fell by the wayside during the competition, reflecting the political difficulties in persuading voters that staging the Olympics is worth the multi-billion-dollar price tag. IOC chief Bach first signalled publicly that the double-award of an Olympics could be on the agenda in December last year, lamenting that the bidding process produced "too many losers".

As the tussle for 2024 unfolded, and as the field thinned to leave just Los Angeles and Paris, the IOC's determination to secure two high-quality bids for the next two summer games became apparent.

In July, the IOC announced it would award the staging rights for the 2024 and 2028 Olympics at the same meeting in Lima, laying the way for a swift agreement between the two over the running order.



Members of the Paris 2024 bid delegation celebrate during the 131st International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Lima on Sept 13. The IOC meeting in Lima will confirm Paris and Los Angeles as hosts for the 2024 and 2028 Olympics, crowning two cities at the same time in a historic first for the embattled sports body. (AFP)

The drama-free conclusion to the race also eliminates the risk of the vote being tainted by the sort of scandal that has embroiled the ballot for the 2016 Olympics.

The IOC was left tackling a fresh wave of graft allegations last week when investigators in Brazil swooped on the country's Olympics chief Carlos Nuzman.

Nuzman stands accused of plotting to bribe IOC members into awarding Rio de Janeiro the 2016 Games at a 2009 vote in Copenhagen.

The allegations swirling around Rio's bid revived memories of the Salt Lake City bribery scandal, which led to 20 IOC members being either kicked out of the Olympics' ruling body or pleading guilty to accepting bribes for votes.

French investigators meanwhile have already announced they are investigating the 2013 vote in Buenos Aires which awarded the 2020 Olympics to Tokyo, following reports of secret payments into a Singapore-based bank account linked to the son of disgraced former world athletics chief Lamine Diack.



International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach (IOC) (left), poses with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti at the end of an IOC session in Lima, Peru on Sept 13. The IOC is voting to ratify Los Angeles as the host city of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Paris as the host city of the 2024 Games during the IOC Session. (AP)



Giroud nearly 'quit' Arsenal

LONDON, Sept 13, (AFP): Arsenal striker Olivier Giroud admitted on Wednesday that he came close to leaving the club in the close season before deciding to stay because his "story is not over".

The France international has fallen behind club-record signing and compatriot Alexandre Lacazette in the pecking order this season but has come off the bench in all of the Gunners' games so far this season.

Danny Welbeck also appears to be ahead of Giroud in the manager's thoughts, but the 30-year-old is likely to get a rare chance to impress from the start in Thursday's Europa League clash with Cologne.

Manager Arsene Wenger will make a number of changes as Arsenal play in the competition for the first time in 17 years, with Giroud expected to be one of several alterations.

The forward, who scored a late winner in the opening-day Premier League victory against Leicester City, has struggled to hold down a regular first-team place at the Emirates Stadium and admitted he nearly quit over the summer having been linked with the likes of Everton and West Ham United.



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Editor-in-Chief AHMED AL JARALLAH

Editorial Office: Airport Road, Shuwaikh P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait

Telephone: 24813566 & 24849144
Fax: 24818267
E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com

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